JOHN BULL.

"FOR GOD, THE SOVEREIGN, AND THE PEOPLE!"

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LONDON and COUNTY BANKING COMPANY (Limited).

Established in 1836, and registered in 1880 under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1879.

Capital £3,000,000, in 100,000 shares of £30 each.

REPORT adopted at the HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING, the 6th August, 1885.

WILLIAM ANASTASIUS JONES, Esq., in the chair.

The directors, in submitting to the proprietors the balance-sheet for the half-year ending 30th June last, have to report that, after paying interest to customers and all charges, making provision for bad and doubtful debts, and for rebate on bills not due (£27,055 11s. 8d), the net profits amount to £234,190 16s. 9d. This sum, added to £18 219 0s. 10d., the balance brought forward from last account, produces a total of £252,409 17s. 7d.

The directors have declared an interim dividend for the half-year of 10 per cent., which will absorb £200,000, leaving the sum of £52,409 17s. 7d. to be carried forward to profit and loss new account.

The dividend, £2 per share, free of income-tax, will be payable at the head office, or at any of the branches, on or after Monday, the 17th August.

BALANCE-SHEET of the London and County Banking Company (Limited), 30th June, 1885:—

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital subscribed, £3,000,000. Paid up				2,000,000	0	0
Reserve fund				1,000,000	0	0
Due by the bank on current accounts, on deposit accounts, with interest accrued, circular notes, &c.				27,965,645	17	11
Liabilities on acceptances, covered by cash or securities or bankers' guarantees				3,643,570	1	10
Rebate on bills not due carried to next account				27,055	11	8
Profit and loss balance brought from last account	£18,219	0	10			
Net profit for the half-year after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	234,190	16	9			
				252,409	17	7
				£34,888,681	9	0

Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By cash at the head office and branches, and with Bank of England	3,909,755	16	9			
Loans at call and at notice, covered by securities	2,808,004	14	3			
				6,807,760	11	0
Investments, viz.:— Consols, registered and in Certificates, New Three per Cents., Reduced Three per Cents., and New Two-and-a-Half per Cents., £3 782,991 7s. 11d., Canada Four per Cent. Bonds and Turkish Four per Cent. Bonds, guaranteed by the British Government	4,139,770	1	0			
India Government Guaranteed Railway Debentures and Shares, and India Government Debentures	409,960	8	6			
Metropolitan and other Corporation Stocks, English Railway Debenture Stock, and Colonial Bonds	439,896	7	11			
Other securities	22,740	0	4			
				5,012,366	17	9
Discounted Bills current	11,464,611	3	0			
Advances to customers at the head office and branches	7,505,520	12	2			
				18,970,131	15	2
Liabilities of customers for drafts accepted by the bank (as per contra)				3,643,570	1	10
Freehold Premises in Lombard-street and Nicholas-lane, Freehold and Leasehold Property at the branches, with fixtures and fittings				454,852	3	3
				£34,888,681	9	0

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To interest paid to customers				111,381	1	3
Salaries and all other expenses at head office and branches, including income-tax on profits and salaries				181,963	16	7
Rebate on bills not due, carried to new account				27,055	11	8
Dividend 10 per cent. for the half year	£200,000	0	0			
Balance carried forward	52,409	17	7			
				252,409	17	7
				£572,830	7	1

Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By balance brought forward from last account				18,219	0	10
Gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, and including rebate, £45,844 17s., brought from 31st December last				554,611	6	3
				£572,830	7	1

Examined and audited by us.

(Signed) J. J. CATER, E. F. DUNCANSON, W. H. STONE, } Audit Committee of Directors.

W. McKEWAN, General Manager.
JAS. GRAY, Chief Accountant.

London and County Banking Company (Limited), 21st July, 1885.

We have examined the foregoing balance-sheet, and profit and loss account, have verified the cash balance at the Bank of England, the stocks there registered, and the other investments of the Bank. We have also examined the several books and vouchers shewing the cash balances, bills, and other amounts set forth, the whole of which are correctly stated; and we are of opinion this balance-sheet and profit and loss account are full and fair, properly drawn up, and exhibit a true and correct view of the Company's affairs, as shown by the books of the Company.

(Signed) FINLAY KNIGHT, WILLIAM NORMAN, RICHARD H. SWAINE, } Auditors.

London and County Banking Company (Limited), 23rd July, 1885.

LONDON and COUNTY BANKING COMPANY (Limited).

Notice is Hereby Given, that a DIVIDEND on the capital of the Company at the rate of 10 per cent. for the half-year ending 30th June, 1885, will be PAYABLE to the proprietors, either at the Head Office, 21, Lombard-street, or at any of the Company's branches, on or after Monday, the 17th instant.

By order of the Board.
W. McKEWAN, General Manager.
21, Lombard-street, 7th August, 1885.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

(Established by Royal Charter, A.D. 1720),

For Sea, Fire, Life, and Annuities.

CHIEF OFFICE, ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON: BRANCH, 43A, PALL MALL.

The Accumulated Funds exceed £4,000,000.

The Total Claims paid by this Corporation have exceeded THIRTY-THREE MILLIONS Sterling.

FIRE ASSURANCES on liberal terms.

LIFE ASSURANCES with or without participation in profits. Divisions of Profit every Five Years.

Persons whose lives are assured with this Corporation on the Bonus or Non-Bonus system incur no Mutual Liabilities as Partners, nor do they depend upon an uncertain Fund; the large INVESTED CAPITAL STOCK of the Corporation affords unquestionable Security for the fulfilment of its engagements.

All real improvements in modern practice, with the security of an office whose resources have been tested by the experience of more than a CENTURY AND A-HALF.

The Corporation are open to consider applications for Agencies.

A Prospectus, Table of Bonus, and Balance Sheet will be forwarded on application.

E. B. HANDCOCK, Secretary.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Authorised Capital, £3,000,000. Subscribed Capital, £2,000,000, Paid-up Capital, £625,000.

RESOURCES OF THE COMPANY as at 31st December, 1883.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Net Premiums received during the year 1883, after deducting re-insurances, amounted to £1,107,745 9s. 9d.

The Net Losses by Fire during the year were, after deducting re-insurances, £573,225 13s. 10d.

This embraces not merely all losses actually ascertained and paid, but a full estimate of all claims that had arisen prior to 31st December.

The Fire Funds, after payment of the Dividend and Bonus aftermentioned, and irrespective of the Paid-up Capital, are as follow:—

Reserve	£1,170,000	0	0
Premium Reserve	369,248	9	11
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	52,986	15	3
	£1,592,235	5	2

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

804 new Policies were issued during the year, assuring	£814,819	0	0
The new Premiums on which amount to the sum of	29,572	1	5
The claims sustained during the year, including 16 endowments, were 296 in number, arising under 397 policies, and the sums payable, after deducting re-assurances, amounted, with bonus additions, to	346,122	4	4
The income for the year of the Life Branch from premiums and interest amounted to	471,407	15	7
In the Annuity Branch 83 bonds were granted, securing annuities to the amount of £5,390 12s. 7d. yearly, for which was received by single payment the sum of	59,520	11	6
The Life Fund, now amounts to	3,340,912	11	2
The Annuity Fund now amounts to	509,275	17	11

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—The PRINCIPLES on which this Company was founded, and on which it continues to act, combine the system of Mutual Assurance with the safety of a large Protecting Capital and Accumulated Funds. NINETY PER CENT. of the WHOLE PROFITS is divided among the Assurers on the Participating Scale. The PROFITS are divided every Five Years. POLICIES are INDISPUTABLE after Five Years.

London: 61, Threadneedle-street, E.C.; West-end Office, 8, Waterloo-place, S.W. Edinburgh: 64, Princes-street.

PHŒNIX FIRE OFFICE,

LOMBARD ST. AND CHARING CROSS, LONDON.

Established 1782.

Insurances against Loss By Fire and Lightning effected in all parts of the World.

Loss claims arranged with promptitude and liberality.

WILLIAM C. MACDONALD, FRANCIS B. MACDONALD } Joint Secretaries.

GORDON and CO.'S CO-OPERATIVE SYNDICATES for operating in STOCKS and SHARES are very successful, yielding large profits. Shares (inclusive of Brokerage), £6 6s., £12 10s., and £50. They are opened EVERY TUESDAY and FRIDAY.

Descriptive Circulars post free on application. Remittances to be forwarded to GORDON and CO., Stock and Share Brokers, 16, Tokenhouse-yard, London, E.C.

THE RAILWAY TIMES, May 23rd, says:—

A new feature has quite recently been introduced into stock and share dealing by the establishment of Syndicates on the co-operative principle. This system has been originated by Messrs. Gordon & Co., 16, Tokenhouse-yard. It possesses many advantages. Clients are communicated with daily with regard to bargains; the Syndicates are formed twice a week and are never extended beyond thirty days. Directly Syndicates are closed, the transaction is immediately completed, and a cheque for cover and profits transmitted to clients. The liability of subscribers is limited to the amount of "cover" deposited.

COB, very handsome, 6 years old, thick-set Bay, 14 hands; fast, with good action, quiet either to ride or drive, free from vice or blemishes, very sure-footed, used to stand about unattended, can trot any pace up to 14 miles an hour; price, including a nearly new and very light gig and harness, hardly soiled, also rug, whip, and stable utensils, £30 the lot, or separately at first reasonable offer.—124, Finsbury-square, E.C.

JAY'S, Regent-street.

CREPE IMPERIAL, for mourning wear.

"It is all wool, and yets looks exactly like crêpe, as it has the crinkled or crimped surface which is inseparable from that fabric. It is solid and most durable, being free from the elasticity of the more perishable silk crêpe which it so closely resembles, and yet it is glossy. It is made up effectively into costumes for deep mourning, when it is not compulsory to trim with crêpe, and will wear as long as the mourner elects to use it."—Extract from the Queen, the Lady's Newspaper.

JAY'S, Regent-street.

MOURNING for FAMILIES.

Messrs. JAY'S experienced dressmakers and milliners travel to any part of the Kingdom, free of expense to purchasers. They take with them dresses and millinery, besides patterns of materials, at 1s. per yard and upwards, all marked in plain figures, and at the same price as if purchased at the warehouse in Regent-street. Reasonable estimates are also given for household mourning, at a great saving to large or small families. Funerals at stated charges conducted in London or country.

JAY'S,
THE LONDON GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSE, REGENT STREET, W.

SCOTLAND.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY'S SUMMER SERVICE of Trains between LONDON and SCOTLAND is now in operation, as under:—

Down Trains.—Weekdays.		A	D	C	B	E	Sun. E
		a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
LONDON (St. Pancras)	dep.	5 15	10 35	8 25	9 15	9 15	9 15
Glasgow (St. Enoch)	arr.	4 57	8 55	6 35	7 43	7 43	7 43
Greenock	,,	6 8	9 40	7 40	8 12	8 12	8 12
Edinburgh (Waverley)	,,	4 32	8 40	5 52	7 25	7 25	7 25
Perth	,,	9 20	11 36	8 23	9 55	9 55	9 55
Aberdeen	,,	..	3 20	11 55	2 15	2 15	2 15
INVERNESS	,,	..	8 0	2 45	6 5	6 5	6 5

A.—Has no connection with Inverness on Sunday mornings. B.—Has no connection with places north of Edinburgh on Sunday mornings. C.—PULLMAN Sleeping Cars to Glasgow, Greenock, Edinburgh, and Perth. D.—Pullman Parlour Cars to Edinburgh and Glasgow. E.—Pullman Sleeping Cars to Edinburgh and Glasgow. First Class Passengers travel in the Cars attached to Day Trains WITHOUT EXTRA PAYMENT. For Berth in Sleeping Car the charge is 6s. in addition to the First Class Fare.

The Evening Express Trains reach Greenock in time for Passengers to join the "COLUMBA" or "IONA" Steamers for the Highlands. Through Carriages from LONDON to Greenock by these Trains, also by the 10.35 a.m. from St. Pancras.

For particulars of Up Trains Service from Scotland to London see Time Tables issued by the Company.

JOHN NOBLE, General Manager, Midland Railway.

Derby, 1885.

GOLD MEDAL, Calcutta Exhibition, 1884.

FRY'S COCOA — **FRY'S CARACAS COCOA**

"A most delicious and valuable article."—*Standard.*

PURE COCOA ONLY.

COCOA — **FRY'S COCOA EXTRACT**

"Strictly pure, easily assimilated."—W. W. STODDART, Analyst for Bristol.

TWENTY PRIZE MEDALS.

BRAND and CO.'S OWN SAUCE.

SOUPS, PRESERVED PROVISIONS.

POTTED MEATS and YORK and GAME PIES; also

ESSENCE of BEEF, BEEF TEA,

TURTLE SOUP, and JELLY, and other

SPECIALITIES for INVALIDS.

CAUTION: BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

SOLE ADDRESS

11, LITTLE STANHOPE STREET MAYFAIR, W.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL, KINGSLAND ROAD.

FUNDS urgently NEEDED for building and general purposes. Bankers—Messrs. Glyn, Mills, and Co., 67, Lombard-street.

GEO. CROXTON, Secretary.

City Offices: 163, Bishopsgate-street Without, E.C.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

Improvements, comprising a new Medical School		£8,768
New Out-Patient Department		4,500
Chapel		1,500
		£14,768

CONTRIBUTIONS towards the above are EARNESTLY SOLICITED and may be paid to Messrs. Hoare, 37, Fleet-street; Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., 1, Pall Mall East; or to the Secretary at the Hospital, Broad Sanctuary, S.W.

S. M. QUENNELL, Secretary.

WARD & DOWNEY'S New Novels at all Libraries.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "A DOG WITH A BAD NAME."

A PRINCE OF DARKNESS.

By the Author of "The House on the Marsh."

3 vols.

NEW NOVELS AT ALL LIBRARIES AND BOOKSELLERS'.

I.

THE OUTLAW OF ICELAND.

By VICTOR HUGO.

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1 vol., 2s. 6d.

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COMEDIES FROM A COUNTRY-SIDE.

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By B. L. FARJEON, Author of "Great Porter Square."

3 vols., 31s. 6d.

IV.

THE FLOWER OF DOOM.

By MISS BETHAM-EDWARDS, Author of "Kitty."

1 vol. 6s.

WARD and DOWNEY, 12, York-street, Covent-garden, London.

ROYAL ASYLUM OF ST. ANNE'S SOCIETY,

For the Children of Parents who have moved in a Superior Station of Life, Orphans or not, of any Nation.

PATRONS—The QUEEN and the ROYAL FAMILY.
PRESIDENT—The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

The Right Hon. THE LORD MAYOR, M.P., (Sir ROBERT N. FOWLER, Bart.), TREASURER OF THE SOCIETY, WILL OPEN THE

NEW SCHOOLS AT REDHILL, ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 14th AUGUST, 1885, AT THREE O'CLOCK, WHEN THE LADY MAYORESS WILL DISTRIBUTE THE PRIZES TO THE PUPILS.

The Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER, V.P., WILL PREACH IN THE CHAPEL OF THE INSTITUTION, ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, 16th AUGUST, 1885, AT THREE O'CLOCK.

R. H. EVANS, Secretary.

OFFICE.—58, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

FUNDS are GREATLY NEEDED. Life Subscription with two votes, £10 10s. Life Subscription with one vote, £5 5s. Annual Subscription with two votes, £1 1s.; with one vote, 10s. 6d.

CITY OF LONDON TRUSS SOCIETY, FINSBURY SQUARE,

For the Relief of the Ruptured Poor throughout the Kingdom. Established 1807.

Patron—H.R.H. the PRINCE of WALES.

The importance of this Charity to the suffering poor of both sexes and all ages may be gathered from the fact that 406,000 have been already relieved.

The proportion of aggravated cases to simple cases is larger than it was formerly; hence more expensive instruments are required, greater cost is entailed, and increased Funds are needed. Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by Lloyds, Barnetts, and Bosanquet's Bank (Limited), 62, Lombard-street, E.C.; and by the Secretary, at the Institution, 35, Finsbury-square.

JOHN WHITTINGTON, Secretary.

ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.

Established 1757.

For Delivering poor Married Women at their own habitations.

PATRON: HER MAJESTY the QUEEN.

Anxious to extend the usefulness of this Old Charity to the many poor women hitherto unable to obtain its succour in their hour of trial, the Committee have been compelled to sell out funded property to enable them to issue a thousand Supplementary Tickets, trusting to the liberality of a generous public to make up the deficiency.

DONATIONS will be GRATEFULLY RECEIVED by Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., 15, Lombard-street, or H. Bollen, Esq., 3, Wood-street, Cheapside, or the Secretary at Charity's House, 31, Finsbury-square.

SCRIPTURE READERS' SOCIETY (IRELAND.—Established 1822.

PRESIDENT—The Right Hon. the EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.

Offices: 27, Lower Pembroke-street, Dublin, and 9, Paternoster-row, London.

Full particulars, Reports, &c., can be obtained post free on application to the Secretary, Capt. JAS. KEARNEY WHITE

WANTED.

SPECIAL PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements of Clerical, Educational, and Domestic Wants and Vacancies will be received for insertion in this Column at the uniform charge of 2s. for 40 words, and 6d. for every additional ten words. Prepayment must in all cases be made, in stamps under 5s., above that by P.O.O. payable at FLEET STREET Money Order Office.

SERMONS COPIED in MS. for the Clergy by Advertiser, who has access to ALL published Sermons, – viz., Blunt, Vaughan, Melville, Keble, &c. (and all the leading preachers), price 1s. 6d. each. Address M.A., 24, Sistova Road, Balham.

ASSISTANT-PRIEST WANTED, at end of Sept. for S. Mark's, Torquay. Plain ritual. E.P. Daily services, frequent cel. Pop. 2,000. Few poor. Stipend £150. Address Rector.

CHRIST CHURCH, BATH.—Wanted, in Sept., PRIEST-GRADUATE. Under thirty-three. Musical; good preacher; sound Churchman; liberal sympathies. stipend £150. Address Rev. B. Norton-Thompson, at Ardanseisig, Cladich, Argyleshire.

CURATE WANTED, end of September. Evangelical Churchman. Surpliced choir. Stipend £140. Address Rev. A. B. Clarke, St. Oswald's, Manchester.

CURATE WANTED, Michaelmas. Moderate views. Earnest worker. £120 and unfurnished cottage, three sitting, two bed rooms and attics, garden. Address Rev. T. P. Garnier, Cranworth Rectory, Thetford.

CURATE WANTED, for Beverley Minster. Large staff. £120 to Deacon; £130 to Priest. Address Rev. H. E. Nolloth, Vicar.

DIOCESE of TRURO.—Wanted, at once, CURATE, for Bodmin, Graduate. Priest. Apply to Rev. A. L. Palmes, Vicarage, Bodmin.

WANTED, for small country pariah, immediately, CURATE, to assist invalid Vicar. Comfortable lodgings and board for £1 a week. Stipend £125. Apply to Chaplain, the Palace, Lichfield.

WANTED, immediately, as CURATE, or L.T. Priest. Sound Churchman. Small town. Grand church. Hearty service.—Vicar, Sleaford.

WILL any Priest, able preacher, take CURACY of large, poor, neglected, city pariah? £100 only guaranteed. Bright services. E.P. Weekly celebration.—Vicar, St. Peter's, Coventry.

CURACY WANTED, at Michaelmas. West preferred. M.A. Oxford. Single. Moderate. Experienced.—H. C. D., Severn Cottage, Henbury, Bristol.

CURACY WANTED. Temporary possible. King's, London. Single. Experienced. Very moderate. —Rev. A. E. C., 57, Windmill-street, Gravesend, Kent.

CURACY, by Cambridge Graduate. Single. Musical, C.E.T.S. Good references. Dioceses B. and W. or G. and B. preferred.—Clericus, c. o. Mr. Silcock, Abbey-yard, Bath.

LOCUM TENENS WANTED, at Chittoe Vicarage, Chippenham, Wilts, for three months, from Sept. 6 to Nov. 29 inclusive. Good house and garden; three servants, wages paid; horse and carriage. Pop. 600. Fine air, lovely country, three and a half miles from Calne Station. Address Rev. C. Raikes, Shamley-green Vicarage, Guildford.

TITLE for Advent, Lich. dio. Non-Grad. Good Churchman. Address A. Z., 1, Princes-buildings, Weston-super-Mare.

CAN any Lady recommend a thoroughl trustworthy, experienced Person as NURSE, to take a baby from the month? No other children. Must be a good needlewoman. Age between thirty and thirty-five. Apply to Mrs. Ellis, the Cottage, Goring-on-Thames.

A GOVERNESS requires a RE-ENGAGEMENT. English, French, Latin, and music. Good testimonials.—Miss M. Adams, Eversley, Pottern-rd., Devizes, Wilts.

A GOVERNESS, well recommended, desires RE-ENGAGEMENT. English, French, German, drawing (School of Art), and music (R.A.M. certificate). Address Miss Herring, Lairthwaite, Keswick, Cumberland.

A LADY highly recommends her GOVERNESS, who has lived with her three years, to children under fifteen. Teaches English, French, music, drawing (elementary), Latin, and German.—Mrs. Springett, Ashfield, Hawkhurst, Kent.

REV. R. J. PURCELL, Rector of Eastwick, recommends, as GROOM, a Young Man of good character, who thoroughly understands his work.—W. Culver, Eastwick Rectory, Harlow.

AS GROOM, Ride and drive well. Single. Age twenty-one. Light weight. Five years' good character from present situation. — J. A., Charterhouse Stables, Godalming.

THE WIDOW of a Clergyman seeks an engagement as LADY-HOUSEKEEPER, or Companion, her present income being insufficient to finish her son's college course. The lady is active, managing, and capable of controlling servants.—M., c.o. Mrs. Hurfurt, stationer, Towcester, Northants.

BLAIR'S GOUT PILLS.

THE GREAT REMEDY FOR GOUT and RHEUMATISM. The excruciating pain is quickly relieved and cured in a few days by this celebrated Medicine. These Pills require no restraint of diet during their use, and are certain to prevent the disease attacking any vital part. Sold by all Chemists at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.—The great climatic variations which soldiers and sailors experience render them liable to a variety of diseases, the development of which is favoured by exposure and hardships—often, it is to be feared, by their own carelessness as well. Holloway's remedies afford a safe and easy means of cure for those constitutional and local maladies which are so frequently engendered by residence in unhealthy climates and by incautious living. The Ointment is a wonderfully healing application, as it cleanses the surface of foul sores and ulcers, soothes the throbbing and pain in cases of inflammation, and checks the progress of skin diseases. The Pills purify the blood, cleanse the liver, and remove all noxious matter from the system.

ART FURNITURE. ADAMS' DESIGNS. CHIPPENDALE.

MAPLE & CO.

Tottenham Court Road.

TURKEY CARPETS. INDIAN CARPETS. PERSIAN CARPETS.

MAPLE and CO., Upholsterers by special appointment to Her Majesty.—The largest FURNISHING ESTABLISHMENT in the world. Acres of show rooms for the display of every possible description of household requisites.

MAPLE and CO., Timber Merchants and direct Importers of the finest Woods to be found in Africa, Asia, and America, and Manufacturers of Cabinet Furniture in various woods by steam power.

MAPLE and CO.'S NEW SHOW ROOMS.

MAPLE and CO.—The Specimen Rooms are good examples of high-class DECORATIVE FURNISHING, carried out in perfect taste, without extravagant expenditure. Everyone one about to furnish, or re-arrange their residences, would derive information by an inspection.

MAPLE and CO.—BEDROOM SUITES.

MAPLE and CO.—BEDROOM SUITES. 500 suites, of various woods, in showrooms to select from. Some new designs in solid woods. Price £8 10s. to 50 guineas.

MAPLE and CO.—CURTAINS.

COLOURED TRANSPARENT CURTAINS.

CURTAINS.—MAPLE and CO. are now SHOWING their SPRING NOVELTIES in Crete, Cyprus, Madras, and Tabrets MUSLINS. Many of these are quite unique in arrangement of colouring and design, some being copies of ancient Eastern embroideries, others with borderings representing tapestry designs; but the variety of these lovely fabrics is so large, that it is simply impossible to give details. Prices from so low as 14s. 9d. per pair. An early inspection is invited.

MAPLE and CO.—EMBROIDERIES.

EMBROIDERIES.—MAPLE and CO. have a most wonderful Variety of EMBROIDERIES collected from the Palaces, Mosques, and Harems of the East. Many are suitable for portières, panels, altar decorations, screens, cushions, brackets, or antimacassars. Prices for the latter range from 1s. to 10s. 9d. each. Amongst the collection are some very rare and curious specimens, such as are sought after and greatly prized by connoisseurs.

MAPLE and CO.—CURTAINS.

ENGLISH LACE CURTAINS.

CURTAINS.—MAPLE and CO.—English and French Lace Curtains, selected direct from the first manufacturers, and comprising an almost unlimited variety of new and elegant styles, many being copies of the higher classes in real lace, a novelty being some embroidered or corded. Prices for Curtains three yards long range from 2s. 11d. to 7s. 6d.; 3½ yards, 4s. 6d. to 12s. 9d.; four yards, 6s. 11d. to 35s. per pair.

MAPLE and CO.—The Largest Furnishing Establishment in the world. Acres of Show-rooms, and Novelties every day from all parts of the globe.—Tottenham-court-road, London, and Boulevard de Strasbourg, Paris.

TURKEY CARPETS.—MAPLE and CO. have just received large consignments of fine TURKEY CARPETS, unique colourings, reproductions of the 17th century, being the first delivery of these made from this season's clip.—MAPLE and CO., London, and 17 and 18, Local Baron Allotti, Smyrna.

TURKEY CARPETS.—These special carpets are exceptionally fine, both in colour and quality, while the prices are lower than ever known before. Appended are a few examples of useful sizes, with prices. The trade supplied :—

11ft. 4in. by 8ft. 3in.	...	...	...	£6 10 0
12ft. 0in. by 10ft. 6in.	...	...	...	7 15 0
13ft. 0in. by 11ft. 9in.	...	...	...	8 10 0
14ft. 9in. by 11ft. 0in.	...	...	...	9 18 0
15ft. 0in. by 11ft. 10in.	...	...	...	11 15 0

INDIAN CARPETS, five thousand to select from :—

12ft. 6in. by 8ft. 6in.	..	..	..	£6 0 0
12ft. 0in. by 9ft. 3in.	..	..	..	7 0 0
13ft. 3in. by 8ft. 3in.	..	..	..	8 0 0
13ft. 3in. by 9ft. 3in.	..	..	..	8 5 0

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BIRTHS.

June 27, at Suez, the wife of Captain CASE (His Highness the Khedive's service), of a daughter.

July 26, at The Vicarage, Wimborne Minster, the wife of the Rev. FRANCIS JOHN HUYSHE, of a son.

July 29, at Whittington House, near Lichfield, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. STONE, late 80th Regiment, of a daughter.

July 30, at Gildridge House, Eastbourne, the wife of the Rev. WILLIAM FREDERIC TUCKER HAMILTON, of a daughter.

July 30, at 38, Montpelier-street, S.W., the wife of the Rev. J. JERVIS, M.A., of a son.

July 31, at 23, James-street, Buckingham-gate, the wife of Captain the Hon. H. C. LEGGE, Coldstream Guards, of a daughter.

July 31, at Bisley Rectory, Woking, the wife of the Rev. W. LANDON-SMITH, of a daughter.

July 31, at Springfield, Pembroke, the wife of Colonel A. C. MAURICE, of a son.

Aug. 1, at 48, Longridge-road, Earl's-court, S.W., the wife of the Rev. ANDREW D. J. ROBINSON, of a daughter.

Aug. 1, at Eton College, the wife of the Rev. T. DALTON, of a son.

Aug. 1, at Bellvue House, Oban, the wife of the Rev. WILLIAM C. TAYLOR, St. Columba's, of a son.

Aug. 2, at 29, Eaton-place, the Hon. Mrs. BRUCE, of a son.

Aug. 2, at Owmby Rectory, Market Rasen, Lincs, the wife of the Rev. T. STAMFORD RAFFLES, M.A., of a son.

Aug. 2, at The School, Honiton, the wife of the Rev. R. A. BYRDE, of a son.

Aug. 2, the wife of the Rev. W. WESTMACOTT, Highbridge Vicarage, of a son.

Aug. 2, at Redbourn, Herts, the wife of the Rev. PHILIP DREDES, of a daughter.

Aug. 2, at Hathcrop Castle, Fairford, the wife of Colonel EDWARD PEMBERTON LEACH, V.C., Royal Engineers, of a son.

Aug. 2, at 3, The Gardens, Peckham-rye, the wife of Mr. E. ROBBINS, Manager of the Press Association (Limited), of a daughter.

Aug. 3, at 49, Ladbroke-grove, W., the wife of the Rev. T. G. CROSSE, of a daughter.

Aug. 3, the wife of the Rev. EDWARD MAINWARING FURLEY, Rector of Ponteabury, Third Portion, of a son.

Aug. 5, at 32, Montagu-square, the Lady de FREYNE, of a son.

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MARRIAGES.

July 25, at St. Jude's, Whitechapel, BERNHARD, eldest son of the late Rev. A. WHISHAW, to ELLEN MARY, eldest daughter of the late CHARLES ABDY WILLIAMS, Esq.

July 30, at All Saints', Barton-on-Irwell, WILLIAM J. BLUNDELL, Esq., eldest son of Colonel Blundell, of Crosby Hall, Lancashire, to SICELE AGNES DE TRAFFORD, fourth daughter of Sir Humphrey and Lady Annette de Trafford, of Trafford Park, Lancashire.

July 30, at St. Mary's, Dinton, Wilts, the Rev. WALTER SEGGUIS PRATT, of Easleston, Yorks, to ADA STEPHANIE MATON POOLMAN MATON, eldest daughter of Stephen Maton, Esq., Dinton.

Aug. 1, at the parish church of Bradford, Somerset, ANNE P. H. DOUGLAS, eldest daughter of General Sir Percy Douglas, Bart., to Sir HUGH LOW, K.C.M.G., Resident of Perak, Straits Settlements.

Aug. 1, at St. Peter's, Kensington-park-road, ARTHUR FITZWILLIAM, eldest son of the Rev. J. DAVIDSON, Colehill Lodge, Fulham, to VIOLET FRANCES FREELING, second daughter of ROBERT SPANKIE, Esq., 29, Kensington-park-gardens, W.

Aug. 1, at Redhill, Captain M. J. GODFREY, D.A.C.G., Commissariat and Transport Staff, to LAURA EDITH, fifth daughter of Surgeon-General VAN SOMEREN, M.D., Indian Medical Department (Retired).

Aug. 4, at the Church of St. John Evangelist, Upper Norwood, Dr. HENRY HETLEY, of Upper Norwood, to LILIAN JOSEPHA, third daughter of EDWARD FRANCIS HARRISON, Esq., C.S.I., of South Norwood-hill, and late of the Bengal Civil Service.

Aug. 4, at the German Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, CARL, son of F. WEBER, Organist of the German Chapel Royal, to ANNA KING, daughter of Dr. F. ALTHAUS, of Winchester-road, N.W.

Aug. 4, in the Chapel Royal, Savoy, RICHARD, youngest son of the Rev. WILLIAM HYDE, M.A., late Rector of Donyatt, Somersetshire, to LUCY, third daughter of the late JOHN GEORGE COLLINS, Esq., of Frodsham, Cheshire.

Aug. 5, at St. Philip's Church, Kensington, HERBERT THOMAS HUGHES, Vicar of Christ Church, Emery Down, second son of W. M. Hughes, Esq., of Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, to GRACE, eldest daughter of the Venerable CHARLES MARRIAT, Archdeacon of Adelaide, South Australia.

DEATHS.

July 23, at 20, Adelaide-square, Bedford, MARIA, widow of the late Rev. JOHN JAMES REW, B.D., aged 43.

July 30, at Ashley Clinton, Hants, MARY MARGARET, widow of Colonel FREDERICK CLINTON, and second daughter of the late Lord Montagu, aged 78.

July 30, at the Cottage, Longparish, Hants, ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of the late Admiral JOHN THOMPSON, aged 76.

July 31, at the Fryerage, Yarm, MARGARET, widow of the late Rev. ROBERT SPENCER, of Helmington Hall, county Durham, in the 78th year of her age.

July 31, at Redcliffe, Wilbury-road, West Brighton, after a few hours' illness, ALICE CICELY, infant daughter of Major D. HEMING, aged three months and ten days.

July 31, the Countess of ALBEMARLE, in the 80th year of her age.

Aug. 1, suddenly, JOHN DIXON DYKE, Esq., of Glovers House, Sittingbourne, in the 83rd year of his age.

Aug. 1, at Kirkbuddo, Forfar, FRANCES ERSKINE, youngest surviving child of Deputy Surgeon General J. R. JACKSON, I.M.D., aged nine years.

Aug. 3, at Upper-park-place, Blackheath, LOUISA JANE, youngest daughter of the late Rev. GEORGE ADAMS, B.D., formerly Rector of Farndon, in the county of Northampton.

Aug. 4, at 1, Hanover-terrace, Notting-hill, MARY, widow of the Rev. Dr. ALEXANDER CRIGAN, in the 91st year of her age.

Aug. 4, while staying at Budleigh Salterton, ANNE, the wife of Sir JAMES WALKER, C.B., Southerton, Ottery St. Mary, and daughter of the late George Bland, Esq., of Trinidad, West Indies, aged 65.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—In the Chamber of Deputies on Monday the Bill authorising a credit of 624,720f. for the organisation of the French settlement at Obock and of the French protectorate at Tadjurah was finally passed. The Chamber also passed by 251 against 86 votes the Bill approving the Acts of the Berlin Conference with regard to the Congo, and the Bill approving the Convention of February 5th between France and the International African Association. The Bill for establishing a colonial army was read a second time.

The Senate on Tuesday adopted the credit of 12,000,000f. for Madagascar, and the French Chamber of Deputies adopted without debate the commercial treaty concluded between France and Burmah on the 15th of January last.

The conflict between the Chambers on the subject of the repeal of the paper duty has been settled, the Senate on Thursday acquiescing in the decision of the Chamber to abolish the tax, but not until the end of next year. The session was then closed.

In consequence of the reported appearance of cholera at Marseilles, it has been ordered that all arrivals from French Mediterranean ports at Trieste, including Algiers, shall be placed under observation for ten days before receiving free pratique.

The foundation-stone of the new buildings of the Sorbonne, which are to cost £880,000, was laid on Monday by M. Goblet, Minister of Education. The buildings will cover five acres, and the largest of the three lecture-rooms will hold 3,000 persons. After M. Goblet's address the annual distribution of prizes took place.

M. Henri Milne-Edwards, Professor of Zoology, member of the Institute, and senior member of the Faculty of Science at Paris, died last week. He was born at Bruges, in 1800, of English parents who established themselves in Paris after the invasion of Belgium in 1814. Studying medicine under his brother, he obtained a doctor's degree in 1828. He first made his mark as a student of Marine Zoology, and in 1832 was appointed Professor of Natural History in the College of Henri IV. and Professor of Public Hygiene and Natural History in the Central School of Arts and Manufactures. In 1834 he was nominated Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, in 1838 he succeeded Cuvier as member of the Institute. Many official professional posts came to him before he succeeded Geoffrey St. Hilaire as Professor in the Faculty of Sciences in 1844. Three years later he was promoted officer of the Legion of Honour, in 1849 he was nominated *doyen* of the Faculty of Science, and in 1856 he received the Copley medal from the Royal Society of London. Almost down to this year he continued to make constant contributions to science.

ITALY.—The clerical newspapers have now published the text of the allocution which Leo XIII. delivered at the Secret Consistory on Monday week. The Pope complains of the difficulties which the Church continues to encounter in Italy, especially of the prohibition of the carrying of the sacrament to the sick publicly through the streets. France causes him grave anxiety, because of the many and serious obstacles which the course of her public affairs creates for the Church. The same must be said regarding Germany. Fully impressed with the greatness and importance of his duties, the Pope affirms that he will continue to defend with all possible vigilance, and to use every effort to obtain, all the rights of the Church and of the Holy See.

In the Public Consistory at the Vatican on the 30th ult., Leo XIII. performed the ceremony of placing the red hat on the head of each of the six new Cardinals. Later a Secret Consistory was held, at which the Pope closed and opened the mouths of the new Cardinals, and conferred upon them their rings and titles, giving to Cardinal Melchers the Basilica of San Stefano Rotondo, to Cardinal Capecelatro that of Saint Nereus and Achilleus, to Cardinal Battaglini that of Saint Bernardo, to Cardinal Moran that of Santa Susanna, to Cardinal Schiaffino that of Saints John and Paul, and to Cardinal Cristofori that of Saints Vitus and Modestus. Dr. Moran has presented the Borgia Museum of the *Propaganda Fide* with a fine collection of geological specimens.

At the Church of Saint Agatha of the Goths on Sunday the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney, Dr. Moran, assisted by Mgr. Donnelly, Bishop of Clogher, and Mgr. Kerby, Archbishop of Lita *in partibus*, and rector of the Irish College, consecrated the Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, the Rev. Dr. Gravel, Bishop of Nicolet in Cana, and the Rev. Dr. Segaro, Vicar-Apostolic for Central Africa. Among those present were Mgr. Gilmour, Bishop of Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Browne, Vice-President of Maynooth; Dr. Kenrick, representing the dioceses of Kerry, and Professor O'Donnell, of Maynooth.

It having been announced that the Madonna would make her final appearance at Corano, a Rome correspondent says, the Syndic, Signor Mazzi, applied to the Prefect of Piacenza for troops, and was early on the spot with a small force of Carabineers and soldiers of the line. They took efficient measures, and at about eleven o'clock, when the concourse expecting the miracle was at the thickest, Signor Mazzi advanced to the rustic shrine, which he took down, together with all the ribands, handkerchiefs, and heterogeneous offerings hanging upon it, and passed the whole to be inspected by the persons nearest to the spot. He then consigned the Mass to the parish priest, to be removed into the church. Two Carabineers were then ordered to cut down the small thicket, and the soldiers proceeded to render the steep roadside inaccessible by bearing away the projecting stone, which formed a rude pathway. The people took all this quietly, and some applauded. The Syndic then retired, but he was recalled after a couple of hours by the Carabineers, as two girls had declared that they had seen the Madonna and had prostrated themselves on the ground. The Syndic seized one. The other rose, and with ecstatic cries pretended to faint. No one prevented her from falling, and the shock instantly restored her senses, whereupon she took to flight. It was night before the assemblage dispersed, and loud murmurs of disappointment were audible when it was found that the expected miraculous appearance did not occur. A permanent guard has been established on the spot.

SPAIN.—The official returns of cholera give for Thursday 3,110 cases and 1,309 deaths, for Friday 3,466 cases and 1,192 deaths, and for Saturday 2,279 cases and 947 deaths, but for each day the returns are very incomplete. The return for Sunday states that the deaths during the twenty-four hours amounted to 1,364, and the cases to 3,807. On Monday the epidemic was reported to have reached the northern frontier province of Navarre, and had also appeared in Granada. The official bulletin reported 3,711 cases and 1,501 deaths as having occurred during the day. On Tuesday there were 4,282 cases and 1,570 deaths; 4,294 cases as well as 1,638 deaths were reported for Wednesday. In the provinces panic is stated to be extending, some of the villages being almost deserted. In some also the doctors and local authorities have been attacked by the disease, and the sick are abandoned, while the dead are left unburied.

AUSTRIA.—Anna, Countess of Meran, the morganatic widow of the late Archduke John of Austria, died on Tuesday morning at Aussee in her 82nd year. The deceased lady, who was much respected at the Austrian Court, was celebrated in her youth for her great beauty. Her maiden name was Plochl. She was the daughter of the postmaster of Aussee, and there were a great many romantic popular legends as to the way in which she and Archduke John became acquainted. These legends, says the *Times* correspondent, all tended to make the story of Archduke John's wooing a pendant to that of Lord Burleigh in Tennyson's poem, but the truth is simply that Archduke John, who passed through Aussee every year, used to notice the pretty girl when his carriage stopped at the posthouse to change horses. The Archduke married her in 1827, Anna Plochl being then 23 years of age, and he was in consequence exiled from Court by his brother, the Emperor Francis. Subsequently the Empress Carolina Augusta interceded for him, but it was not till 1845, under the reign of the Emperor Ferdinand, that his wife was received at Court and created Baroness Brandhof. Later she received the title of Countess of Meran, which has now devolved upon her son, the only child by her marriage. Archduke John died in 1859. Since then the Countess has lived mostly at Gratz, but she had bought the old posthouse where she was born to convert it into a summer residence, and it was there she died. The present Emperor of Austria always treated the Countess with high regard and kindness. Whenever he passed through Gratz he went to see her, and during her last illness he sent several telegrams of inquiry about her health. The Countess was held in general honour for her charity, and for the kindly use which she made of her influence in high circles.

AMERICA.—Funeral services were held on Tuesday at Mount M'Gregor in memory of the late General Grant. The services, which were performed according to the Methodist rites, were attended by over one thousand persons, among those present being Generals Hancock and Sherman, several Senators, and a number of other distinguished persons. The remains of the deceased General left Mount M'Gregor by special train at one p.m., under escort for Albany, whence they were conveyed on Wednesday to New York. Large crowds assembled at the stations through which the train passed between Mount M'Gregor and Albany, as a mark of respect for the deceased. The body was received at Albany by a detachment of troops, who escorted the procession to the Capitol. The conveyance of the remains to New York afforded opportunity for an imposing spectacle. A severe storm visited the Hudson Valley as the funeral train was making its way along the banks of the river from Albany to New York; sometimes the storm was ahead, and then again it fell behind the cars, and caused a succession of beautiful rainbows. The New York Legislature assembled at two o'clock, as arranged, and they, with the military and civic procession, numbering about 5,000, awaited the arrival of the funeral party at the station. About half-an-hour was occupied in removing the casket to the funeral car and in forming the procession, which started soon after four o'clock, slowly marching up the hilly streets through dense crowds to the Capitol Hills. The elaborate funeral car, 18ft. high, followed the military. Then came the New York Legislature, the Grand Army of the Republic, political clubs, and civic societies, including several singing societies. It is stated that the embalmers on examining the corpse became anxious. The jolting over the stony streets had produced a bad effect, and the face bore a ghastly appearance, and was discoloured. The military and civic processions reformed, and at half-past eleven the casket was closed and carried out to the funeral car. The procession, with cannon booming and bands playing dirges, slowly moved down the hills along the crowded streets to New York Central Railway Station, reaching there soon after twelve. The casket was placed in the funeral coach, the mourners got into the train, which at half-past twelve slowly moved from the station with eleven coaches for the journey down the Hudson river eastern bank to New York. The remains were to lie in state in the City Hall until to-day (Saturday).

The question of the future of the negro is demanding serious attention in the United States. The census shows that in the Gulf States he is growing faster than the whites; and neither fraud nor force can long keep him from the government of the Southern States. Yet, in spite of his new educational advantages, his illiteracy is on the increase with his growth in numbers. A writer in one of the Boston journals, dating from Washington, asks, "What shall we do with him after his numbers give him a majority that cannot be put down, and his education reveals to him the power that follows the majority in numbers?" In answer to this question the Republicans of the North, and some few persons in the South, declare that he must be fitted for the franchise and for his station in society by the acquisition of property and by education; and the Democrats of the South are equally in favour of his education, if he can be kept after education in his present servile condition, without political power. But educated he will be; all classes now admit that. Every Southern State is doing something for its coloured schools; and it is regarded as certain that Congress will add millions of dollars to the large amount now expended by the States. The real question, therefore, is what will become of the negro after he has been duly and satisfactorily educated. At Washington, where one night school existed at the time of the Civil War, 10,000 black children are now enrolled in the public schools. In the Southern States, where scarcely a coloured school then existed, nearly a million black scholars are now receiving instruction. In the colleges and normal schools of the Southern States are already 19,000 students. This means a considerable leaven of higher education, which every year begins to have its effect upon the black race. The schools are beginning to have a wholesome bodily as well as a mental influence. It has taken many centuries of residence in Africa to make the negro black, but now it is believed that a few centuries of freedom and education will make him white. It is certainly thought not impossible to wash the negro white by progress. The writer already quoted thus further develops his views on the future of the negro:—"Educate him, thus developing mind; clothe him, making his body more fair; let him enjoy the improving elements of civilisation, and in some coming century the negro race in America will cease to exist. The schools of Washington are divided into two classes—the white and the black—and the distinction is drawn as close as possible. Yet there is hardly a school in Washington that does not contain some American citizen in embryo of African descent. I am myself personally acquainted with two such cases. A Professor of Howard University was a student in Columbia College for some time before the professors or his fellow students discovered that he was of African descent. And then he, who was as white as the majority of his class, was dismissed because of this invisible taint in his blood. The number of white persons among the Africans is steadily increasing, and time and education and attention to personal details may be trusted to eventually eliminate every negro in the United States, and to make all his descendants into white men."

The following is copied from the *New York Herald* of the 15th of July:—

"Our London despatches, sent by the Mackay-Bennett cable and published this morning, render an important service to the American as well as the English public by revealing the truth about the feculent stories of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. These stories are shown to be mere bait for the prurient reader. They are copied from old reports; they are filched from books published fifty years ago; they are dished up in gross and vulgar fashion, and they are put forth in the name of outraged morality and in the case of legislative reform. The *Herald* is not squeamish. We don't blink our eyes at the plain facts of life. We report the vices as well as the virtues of the town. We study humanity in a church or in an opium joint. But when it comes to shocking our readers with a tale of secret abominations we decline to enter into competition with the obscene fellows whom Mr. Comstock is employed to prosecute. So the *Pall Mall Gazette* may be quite certain that no portion of the 'sympathy' which it is so industriously seeking will come to it from America. It must be content with the panegyrics of a few hysterical English women and a handful of clerical busybodies. Decent Americans can only regard its 'disclosures' either as an outburst of morbid pruriency or as an attempt to pander to the depraved tastes of the sensualists and voluptuaries whom it professes to chastise."

TURKEY.—The Porte has signed a contract with Messrs. Krupp's agents for the purchase of seven very heavy guns of 35½ centimètres bore, twenty-two guns with a bore of 24·50 centimètres, and 400 field-pieces and mountain cannon, varying in calibre from seven to nine centimètres. Four of the seven large guns are to defend the Bosphorus and three the Dardanelles. The others are intended for various fortifications on the coasts. This contract will necessitate a loan of £700,000; but it is considered doubtful whether the Government will be able to obtain that sum.

EGYPT.—Major-General Grenfell telegraphed that an Arab has arrived at Korosko from Berber who reports that the rebel force which attacked Kassala on June 15 and 16 consisted of Osman Digma's men. The Arab further states that Osman Digma is dead, a statement which has since been been contradicted. General Grenfell also reports the arrival at Wady Halfa of an Arab from Khartoum with a message from Slatin Bey to the Khedive stating that the Mahdi is dead. The message adds that the garrison of Sennaar is holding out well and inflicting great damage on the rebels.

The German and Russian members of the Caisse have been ordered by their respective Governments to sanction the decree for the issue of the loan of nine millions, and the indemnity claims will be paid forthwith.

Business was done on Tuesday for the first time on the Alexandria Bourse in the new loan at 98⅜.

There has been a sudden rise of the Nile at Wady Halfa and Cairo. The river is now 12ft. higher than at the same date last year.

The Arabian paper *Afret* learns that the negotiations between the King of Abyssinia and Colonel Chermside for the relief of Kassala by the Abyssinian troops are proceeding well. Ras Allula is to advance with 5,000 men in October from Adua, along the Baria river, whilst Ras Markol advances with 3,500 men along the Sabit river. At the same time an Anglo-Egyptian corps of 800 men, and an Italian corps of 1,200 men will march towards Kassala, so that the rebels will be attacked from all sides.

INDIA.—The question of increasing the numerical strength of the Indian Native Army is reported from Simla to be receiving the special attention of the Indian Government at the present time. The proposal, which is said to meet with the approval of the Government, is to add two companies to each battalion of infantry and a squadron to each regiment of cavalry.

It has been resolved to construct an entrenched camp in the Pishin Valley. A severe outbreak of cholera has occurred in the Khan of Khelat's camp in the Mulla Pass. Two hundred persons have died, including the Khan's mother, his principal Minister, and several chiefs. Azad Khan, chief of Kharan, lately visited Quetta to receive a gift of honour of the value of 5,000 rupees, presented by the Government, in recognition of the help which he afforded to the Boundary Commission in crossing the desert between Nushki and the Helmund in last October. Azad, who is ninety-eight years old, and still vigorous and active, was long a bitter enemy of the Khan of Khelat; but peace has been effected through Sir R. Sandeman's influence. He has arranged to keep open the roads from Kharan to the Helmund, and he is stated to have expressed an opinion that the Afghans would best show their *bona fides* and loyalty by allowing the English to occupy and defend Herat.

A writer in the *Times of India* of the 14th ult. gives the following amusing illustration of the spread of the English language in our Eastern Empire:—A short time back Mr. Bright delivered a speech welcoming the Marquis of Ripon back to England, and dwelling on all the advantages which the rule of his Lordship had procured for this country. Among other things Mr. Bright said he was glad to learn that our noble English language, the language of Milton, was becoming better known in India, and was spreading to the masses of the people—or words to that effect. The other day, happening to be walking by the barracks, I received a striking proof of the correctness of Mr. Bright's assertion. Three very small native boys were having an improvised game of cricket. The wicket was represented by a piece of board resting against a large stone, the bat was a splint from some old box, and the ball was old and angular. The day was hot, and the three little cricketers had dispensed with cricketing costume. In fact, they had nothing on but the shiny brown skin with which kind Mother Nature had endowed them at their birth. But they played the game with the utmost earnestness and vigour, as they had often seen the soldiers doing outside the barracks. "Pla-a-a-y!" shouted the bowler as he delivered the ball from a distance of about five yards. "H'out," exclaimed the wicket-keeper joyfully, as the board tumbled down. "Dam!" said the youthful batter energetically as he gave up the bat and took up the ball. Truly, I thought, as I watched this scene, Mr. Bright is quite right, and the knowledge of our noble English language, the language of Milton, is decidedly filtering down to the masses of the people.

CANADA.—The trial of Riel was concluded on Saturday. The Judge read the evidence, and in charging the jury directed them to find a verdict of guilty, unless they believed the prisoner to be irresponsibly insane during the rebellion. The summing-up lasted four hours. The jury retired to consider their verdict, and in their absence Riel knelt down in the dock and prayed audibly and fervently. After an hour's deliberation the jury returned into Court, and stated, in reply to the usual interrogatories, that they found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy. The prisoner was quite unmoved when the verdict was announced. Riel has been sentenced to be hanged at Regina on September 18. Notice has been given of appeal.

A petition signed by almost all the inhabitants of Stellaland has been forwarded to the Imperial Government praying for Imperial rule, protesting against annexation to the Cape Colony, and expressing a desire to see the settlement proposed by Sir Charles Warren carried out.

The small uninhabited island of Memaloose, in the Columbia River, which is about 100 miles below Portland (Oregon), has from time immemorial been the burial place of the Indian tribes of the Wascos and Alickitats, among the famous Indian chiefs interred there being Malatowack and Powshensha. The customs observed after death by these two tribes are as follows:—The bodies are swathed in fine linen bands covered with a profusion of ornaments and conveyed in a canoe to the island of Memaloose, where they are laid upon the ground until the rain, the wind, and the birds of prey have done their work. When nothing but the whitened bones remain, they are carefully gathered up and placed in a rough sarcophagus, where they are supposed to rest until the trumpet sounds on the last day. But the truth is that doctors, students, and collectors of fossils are continually going to this cemetery for skulls and skeletons. The only white man who has been buried there is Mr. Victor Trevott, who occupied several important posts in the State of Oregon, and who for some unexplained reason wished to be buried in the Indian cemetery. The boatmen on the Columbia River and the gardeners who live on the banks are all convinced that they see his phantom of a night upon the island, while among other legends is that which asserts that a red man on a black pony gallops about the cemetery at certain seasons of the year.

IRELAND.

The Earl of Carnarvon, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, has intimated his intention of visiting the city and county of Limerick about the end of the present month. The object of his Excellency's visit is to encourage the revival of those Irish industries which, from various causes, are now decayed. The approaching visit has caused amongst different classes not a little anxiety and pleasure.

The Association of Irish Non-subscribing Presbyterians on Thursday presented an address of congratulation to the Lord-Lieutenant, in which they expressed the belief that the Irish people were prepared to give a most respectful reception to the policy to be developed by his Excellency, and they trusted that a firm hand would continue to administer equal justice to all classes. Lord Carnarvon, in reply, said that party government was the necessary machinery by which government in these days was carried on, but it needed the exercise of a strong will and pure principles to preserve it from the mischievous excesses into which it was liable to degenerate. He rejoiced to think that the Land Purchase Bill had already secured a large measure of Parliamentary approval from all partics.

The Special Committee appointed by the Society for Irish Church Missions to Roman Catholics have presented their report, in which they draw attention to the fact that the work of the society tends to become in some districts more pastoral than missionary.

They appeal to the Church of Ireland to take up this pastoral work, and to the public to furnish funds to enable the committee to carry out their determination :—

That the operations of the society shall no longer be confined to isolated sections of the country, but that a determined effort should be made for the wholesale diffusion of Gospel truth and for the deliverance of the country from the yoke of Rome.

Some changes are also suggested with the view of reducing expenses.

An address from the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland was presented last week to the Lord-Lieutenant. The deputation was headed by the Archbishop of Dublin, who read a letter from the Primate expressing regret that he was through age and infirmity unable to be present. The Lord-Lieutenant in his reply said he had watched the progress of the Church with earnest attention and sympathy, and the manner in which it had gradually emerged from its difficulties; and he remembered with satisfaction that he had been the mover of the clause in the Disestablishment Act which provided for commutation of the life interests of incumbents, which had been found of such material advantage to the Church.

The Bishop of Killaloe has appointed Canon Wolseley, vicar of Kilrush, to the archdeaconry of Kilfenora, vacant by the death of the Ven. Arthur Tatton.

A deputation from the Irish Glebe and Church Purchasers' Association, accompanied by the Ulster members, had an interview on Wednesday with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his rooms in the House of Commons, to urge the expediency of giving to purchasers and tenants under the Church of Ireland Act, 1869, equal terms with those Irish tenants under the Church of Ireland Act of 1881, who would now be enabled to take possession of their holdings under facilities afforded by the Land Purchase Bill now passing through Parliament. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply, said he did not think the Government could at present undertake to reopen the matter as regarded those tenants who had purchased glebe lands. There were some difficulties in dealing with the case put before him, but it would be considered whether some relief could be afforded to them in the way of enabling them to take advantage of the Land Act of 1881 and of the present Bill with regard to the time allowed for extending the repayment of loans, and possibly reducing the interest on such loans to the rate proposed in the Land Purchase Bill.

Lord Devon, has, through his solicitor, intimated to the tenantry on his county Limerick estates that, unless they have by the 8th inst. paid in full the rents due up to September last, immediate legal proceedings will be taken for the recovery of the amount. Lord Devon offered a reduction of 10 per cent., but the tenants demanded an abatement of 30 per cent., which was refused by the landlord. They have since been holding meetings, and have threatened not to pay any rent whatever.

At the Dublin Rolls Court on Wednesday a great number of people assembled to hear the applications for the appointment of a liquidator in the case of the Munster Bank. There were several petitions on behalf of shareholders and creditors, and a large number of counsel were engaged. Mrs. Harris, wife of Alderman Harris, was the first petitioner demanding a compulsory winding-up of the bank. Her counsel maintained that the money of the creditors should not be risked in any new banking undertaking, as proposed. A large number of shareholders would not or could not pay calls which might be made upon them. One thousand of these shareholders were ladies, and the rest included many clergymen, police-constables, farmers, etc. The Master of the Rolls said Mrs. Harris had made out a *primâ facie* case for compulsory winding-up, and he would hear the other side. Mr. Piers White, Q.C., for the Munster Bank, did not deny this, but argued that the liquidation should be voluntary and not compulsory. They proposed that three gentlemen should be appointed liquidators—namely, Messrs. Reardon, Murphy, and Payne, all of whom were deeply interested in the bank, and who believed it was not insolvent, but able to pay its debts; the assets being more than sufficient for payment of creditors in full, without calling upon the shareholders. All were agreed, counsel added, that it would be most unadvisable to have a professional liquidator appointed, with the three directors already mentioned as provisional liquidators. The hearing of the other petitions occupied the greater part of the afternoon. The Master of the Rolls eventually expressed his determination not to go into the question of liquidation at present, as the Long Vacation was so close at hand, but to appoint three provisional liquidators—one a Director of the bank, a Mr. Murphy; one an independent Cork merchant, Mr. R. Hall, the Chairman of the Cork Harbour Board; and one an independent Dublin merchant, a member of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Frederick W. Pim. This decision gave great satisfaction.

An agrarian outrage of the character with which the country was unfortunately too familiar three years ago was committed on Sunday night at Inch, within two miles of Ennis. An armed party, disguised, entered the house of a farmer named Patrick O'Donnell, put out the lights, and fired several shots, one of which was aimed at him, and wounded him in the legs, but not seriously. The cause of the outrage is that he recently took some acres of meadowing from Mr. Richard Stacpoole, D.L., on a farm which had been surrendered by another farmer on the ground that the rent was too high.

The Earl of Aberdeen was on Wednesday presented with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh, in recognition of his hospitality while discharging the office of Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland on several occasions.

Painted windows as a memorial of departed worth and gallantry have an interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor has at all times pleasure in showing his works in progress, both for church and hall, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates sent. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London, W.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

There was a small attendance of Peers, and the business transacted was for the most part uncontentious. On the motion of Lord Redesdale, Chairman of Committees, a number of standing orders with regard to private Bills were amended, and, *inter alia*, it was ordered that, in the case of naturalisation Bills, the second reading shall be preceded by a certificate that the person seeking naturalisation is well affected, and by the swearing of the oath of allegiance at the bar of the House. Among a large number of Bills which were proceeded with was the Thames Regulation Bill, and upon this measure an amendment was engrafted, on the proposal of Lord Cowper, by which riparian proprietors will be entitled to "warn off" boats which are moored in the river opposite their properties for more than forty-eight hours. The House rose at 5.30.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday.

Sir Charles Dilke took his seat on the front Opposition bench shortly after the Speaker entered the House at four o'clock, when, as afterwards, there was a small attendance. At notice-time Dr. Cameron, Radical member for Glasgow, provoked a great deal of laughter by giving notice for next session with regard to the disestablishment of the Church of Scotland. Lord John Manners, replying to a question, stated some details of the intended scheme of Postal Parcels Insurance, from which it appeared that for a payment of 1d. for parcels not valued higher than £5, and 2d. for parcels not valued at more than £10, the Postmaster-General would become responsible for parcels sent by post. Mr. W. H. Smith replied to some questions respecting Souakim, to the effect that the railway from Souakim to Berber would not at present be proceeded with, and that the European troops at Souakim would be relieved forthwith and the Indian troops in October. The Vice-President of the Council was unable to afford any definite information as to whether an additional grant would be made to Aberystwith College on account of the recent disaster. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach announced the intention of the Government to proceed with the Scotch Secretary Bill, the Irish Land Purchase Bill, and the Federal Council of Australasia Bill, and to proceed with the Housing of the Working Classes Bill. The Postmaster-General intimated that the first of October would probably be the date for the coming into operation of the new telegraphic facilities.

Shortly after five o'clock the House went into committee on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill for the third time. The only incident in the course of the five additional hours devoted to the Bill arose from allusions to some recent scandalous productions. Mr. Samuel Morley, amid cries of "Oh," and other hostile demonstrations, defended the publications, into the accuracy of which he had examined; and Mr. Staveley Hill retorted upon the apologists of such defamatory writings with an indignant denial of their right, or that of any body of men in the country, to promulgate vague and infamous charges against persons of all ranks without giving any opportunity for the exculpation and punishment of the persons at whom they aimed. A clause was added to the Bill by which the evidence of accused persons would be admitted, and they will become subject to cross-examination. Shortly before ten o'clock the Bill was ordered to be reported with the amendments made in committee.

On the order of the day for going into Committee on the Secretary for Scotland Bill, Sir Lyon Playfair moved an amendment in favour of excepting Scotch education from the Bill. Mr. J. A. Campbell, Conservative member for Glasgow University, seconded the amendment. It was opposed by Mr. John Ramsey, to some extent by Mr. Cochran-Patrick, and also by Mr. J. D. Balfour. Sir John Hay and Sir E. Colebrooke supported the amendment, as also did both Mr. Forster and Mr. Mundella, while Mr. Dalrymple, the Under-Secretary for the Home Department, supported the Bill in its entirety. After a lengthy discussion, Sir Lyon Playfair asked leave at one o'clock to withdraw his amendment, and, after further protracted conversation, the House went into Committee, and reported progress forthwith. The House adjourned at ten minutes past three.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Tuesday.

A number of Bills were advanced a stage. They were all measures which had originated in the House of Commons, and to which there had been no opposition in their Lordships' House. Lord Salisbury, in replying to several questions put to him by the Duke of Marlborough, stated that as regarded the Zulfikar Pass not much progress had been made in the negotiations between this country and Russia since the present Government came into office. The delay was principally owing to the wish of Russia to obtain more information with respect to the matter on which the controversy turned. He did not think it would be judicious to state the terms of the agreement concluded between the Viceroy of India and the Ameer of Afghanistan at the Durbar of Rawul Pindi; but no modification whatever had been made in those terms since the accession of the present Government. Our troops occupied the Pishin Valley, which was not in the territory of the Ameer. The Government had no intention of occupying any strategical position in the Ameer's dominions with a force of observation; but a part of their policy was to strengthen our own frontier. In reply to Lord Wemyss, the Prime Minister stated that the Government had not received an appeal for protection from any of the Soudanese tribes. He could not anticipate the recommendations of Sir H. D. Wolff by making any statement as to future policy in Egypt and the Soudan.

Their Lordships rose at five minutes past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, answering questions from Lord Hartington as to the course of business, said that the third reading of the Appropriation Bill would be taken first to-day, and after it the Report on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and the Indian Budget would be taken on Thursday. The Bill for the Housing of the Poor could hardly be taken before Friday. Asked by Mr. West to say what Bills the Government intended to go on with at that period of the session, the Chancellor of the Exchequer replied, amid cheers, that the Government hoped the House would pass them all. Sir W. Hart-Dyke, in moving the second reading of the Land Purchase (Ireland) Bill, which has come down from the Lords, remarked that it took the state of Ireland as it found it, and that whatever might be its fate, a few hours spent in discussing the best means of stimulating the land market in Ireland would not be wasted. After touching briefly on previous schemes, he said the Bill would be voluntary, and the terms hitherto offered would be relaxed on points which experience showed to be necessary. The terms for which loans were to be granted would be forty-nine years, at four per cent., and when there was a guarantee of one-fifth deposited by the landlord the whole purchase-money would be advanced by the State. He justified this liberality by the stagnation of the land market in Ireland, and, considering that this was a measure for the benefit of Ireland, he saw no reason why the assistance of the Church surplus should not be invoked. Among other provisions, he dwelt on the indefeasible title which is to be given to the purchaser; on the vesting order which the Court is to give, not only of the holding, but of the interest in it; and on the composition of the tribunal, promising to state the names of the two new Commissioners before going into Committee. Mr. S. Walker approved the Bill and desired to see it pass, but indicated several portions of it, including the use of the Church surplus, which he desired to see altered. Colonel King-Harman regarded the Bill as an abortion and a sham, which must, however, be dangerous and expensive, and objected strongly to the tribunal to which the working of the Bill was to be committed, much preferring the Landed Estates Court. Colonel Nolan remarked that it was easy to pick holes in a Bill of this kind, but hoped that it would pass into law. Mr. C. Lewis approved of the Bill as being a practical, generous, and fair measure, but thought it would have been more advantageous if its working had been intrusted to the Landed Estates Court. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, without opposing the Bill as a tentative measure, was afraid that in the present state of affairs in Ireland it would not immediately be taken advantage of, especially having regard to the uncertainty as to what would be done with the land question in the next Parliament. Its terms, he argued, were so favourable that they must lead to an agitation either to extend the principle of purchase to the whole of Ireland, or to reduce the rent of those who were not under the Bill, and as to the deposit he did not believe that would be permanent, and preferred Mr. Trevelyan's local guarantee. Mr. Plunket remarked that Mr. Shaw-Lefevre condemned not only this Bill but the Bill of his own Government, and if the question were to be dealt with in this spirit it was waste of time to take it up. He denied that the measure was a landlords' relief Bill, but even if it were it was no more than the landlords' due; and, arguing that it would prove to be a great boon to the State, he appealed to Irish patriots to assist in its passage through Parliament. Mr. T. Dickson, speaking in support of the Bill, asked that glebe tenants should be dealt with by it on the same footing as other tenants. Captain Aylmer argued that the Act of 1881 was sufficient to effect the objects aimed at by the Bill, which, he contended, would greatly interfere with the saleability of land in Ireland. After some remarks from Sir T. M'Clure and Mr. Macartney, Mr. Parnell expressed satisfaction that the opposition of the landlords had come to an end, and thought the Bill offered facilities to them as well as to tenants. Looking at the Bill merely as an experimental one, he did not see that, limited to five millions, it could do much mischief to either party, and believed it might afford experience which would assist in the final settlement of the question. But he objected to the Church funds being appropriated for the purposes of the measure, and, in conclusion, maintained that the Bill went a long way towards giving a great deal that the Land League had asked for. Mr. C. S. Read considered that the whole system of Irish land tenure, by which a double ownership was created, was a mistake; but although the Bill could not be supported as being in accordance with principles of political economy, he hoped it would soon become law. Mr. Thomasson opposed the Bill; and Mr. Gregory, Sir H. Bruce, and Mr. Findlater supported it. The Attorney-General for Ireland, who believed that the Bill would be more efficiently worked by the Land Commission than by the Landed Estates Court, argued that it would prove beneficial to landlords as well as to tenants. Mr. S. Smith and Mr. Biggar also spoke, and the Bill was read a second time. The Federal Council of Australasia Bill passed through Committee. The Secretary for Scotland Bill was also passed through Committee, but the only point of importance which arose related to the position of the new Minister in reference to education. Three views were advocated. Sir L. Playfair proposed that he should be merely an *ex officio* member of the Council on Education, and that the supreme control of the education of Great Britain should be in the hands of one and the same Minister. Mr. P. Bruce proposed that he should have the supreme control over Scotch education, and the Bill proposed that the Secretary for Scotland should occupy the same position as the English Vice-President of the Council under the Lord President. Ultimately a division was taken on Mr. Bruce's amendment, and the Committee decided in favour of the clause in the Bill by 73 to 26. The Public Works Loan Bill was read a third time; and the Sea Fisheries (Scotland) Amendment Bill passed through Committee, and was read a third time.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Wednesday.

The Revising Barristers Bill was read a second time and passed through its remaining stages. The Telegraph Acts Amendment Bill and the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill went through Committee.

Their Lordships rose at twenty minutes past two.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Wednesday.

The House was occupied all the afternoon by the debate on the Appropriation Bill. On the third reading being moved, Mr. Labouchere moved an amendment with the object of extracting some explanation from the Government with regard to their Egyptian policy, and commented on the conditions of the issue of the recent Guaranteed Loan, finding especial fault with the terms which had been allowed to Messrs. Rothschild. Sir G. Campbell made some remarks upon the mission of Sir H. Wolff, and complained of the ignorance of the Foreign Office as to points on the internal administration of Egypt on which they had been questioned recently. While admitting that the present situation in Egypt was so bad that any consistent plan must be for the better, he protested against handing it over to the dominion of the Turk unless under autonomous institutions such as had been elaborated for the European provinces of Turkey. Sir W. Lawson indulged in some characteristic reflections on the foreign policy of the late Government, which he said had been odious and had led to enormous annexation and to cruel and contemptible wars. The present Government could not do worse, but he hoped that they would not attempt to follow in the steps of their predecessors. Sir J. Hay asked whether the first instalment raised of the loan would not be devoted to the relief of those who suffered from the burning of Alexandria. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, while deeming it unnecessary to go into the past, admitted the full right of the House to the information it demanded. As to the mission of Sir H. D. Wolff, he reminded the House of his services in Eastern Roumelia and his diplomatic experience in Oriental questions, which fitted him for the mission with which he has been accredited to the Sultan and the Khedive. The Government, he said, admitted their obligation to Egypt, and they also recognised that others Powers—especially the Porte—had rights and interests there, and that we must endeavour to act in concert with them. It was essential to secure the goodwill of the Porte, and Sir H. D. Wolff, therefore, would go first to Constantinople. It was not in his power at present to give more specific information as to the instructions which would be given to him, beyond this, that his object and the policy of the Government in Egypt would be to put the Egyptian Government on a footing with respect to external defence, finance, and internal administration such as would lead gradually to its security, freedom, and independent action in the future. He added that he would not speak of evacuation, as nothing could be more embarrassing to the success of the Ministerial policy than to hold such language at the present moment. With regard to the loan, he reminded the House of the Convention concluded with the Powers by the late Goverhment, which the present Government, whatever their views about it, were bound to carry out, but which they found in suspense, and totally impossible of execution on the terms which the late Government had proposed. To illustrate the situation which the Government found in existence, the Chancellor read extracts from despatches from Sir E. Malet at Berlin, and, while pointing out the difficulties caused by the international character of the loan and the absolute necessity of issuing it immediately, maintained that the terms on which it was issued and the arrangements with Messrs. Rothschild were the most advantageous under the circumstances. Lord Hartington said he had nothing to complain of in this statement except to say that as regarded policy it was no more explicit than the statements of the late Government, which were always said to be deficient in definiteness. As to the loan, though better terms might, perhaps, have been obtained under other circumstances, he was sure that no Stock Exchange consideration had entered into it. But he thought some explanations ought to be given as to the mission of Sir H. D. Wolff, and considering the language he had used about the Khedive some assurance ought to be afforded that support was not about to be withdrawn from the Khedive. Mr. Forster asked for some assurances as to the slave trade, which he feared had increased by reason of the abandonment of the Soudan, and after some remarks from Mr. Villiers Stuart, Mr. Bourke said, with regard to Sir H. Wolff's mission, that there was no intention of withdrawing the support from the Khedive which the late Government had given to him. As to the slave trade, no doubt the abandonment of the Soudan would lead to the extension of the slave trade, but the attention of the Government would be directed to the subject. Mr. M'Coan expressed his strong satisfaction at the appointment of Sir H. Wolff, who, he believed, would be welcomed by all classes in Egypt, and advocated the establishment in that country of a direct English Protectorate, or, as the next best alternative, the restoration of the late Khedive. The amendment having been negatived without a division, Mr. O'Brien proceeded to call attention to the conduct of the late Government in regard to the mission of Sir G. Errington to the Vatican, and especially to a letter alleged to have been written by him to Lord Granville with reference to the recent appointment to the Archbishopric of Dublin. Sir G. Errington however, pointed out that the letter was either a forgery, or, if genuine, must have been obtained by fraud, and in these circumstances he repudiated all obligation to give information on the subject. Mr. Biggar and Mr. P. J. Power having dwelt upon the same subject, Mr. Arnold asked for information as to the terms of the proposed Royal Commission on the depression of trade and the names of the Commissioners, and, speaking in a sarcastic vein, severely criticised the general policy of the Government. Mr. Elton replied to this criticism, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor protested against the course pursued by the late Government in relation to the Archbishopric of Dublin. Mr. Boord made some inquiries as to pensions to the widows of Government officials killed in the performance of their duties; and Mr. Molloy asked for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the Education Acts. Mr. Stanhope, although declining to promise a Commission, undertook to have recourse to one if he found that the Education Department were unable to obtain the information that was required. Mr. M'Coan, Mr. Newdegate, Sir P. O'Brien, Colonel Nolan, Mr. Talbot, and Mr. L. Stanley also spoke, and the Bill was read a third time.

The Universities (Scotland) Bill was withdrawn, and, after some further business had been disposed of, the House adjourned at ten minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Thursday.

The Royal assent was given by Commission to the Medical Relief Disqualification Removal Bill and fifty-five other Bills which had passed both Houses. In the Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders Bill, an amendment moved by Lord Elphinstone was rejected by 20 to 19, and the Bill then

passed through Committee. On the motion for the third reading of the River Thames (No. 2) Bill, Lord Bramwell expressed his opinion that the Bill was indefensible. It limited the rights of riparian proprietors by allowing persons to moor their boats for forty-eight hours opposite to the lawns of those owners. At present the riparian owner had a right of action against the persons who moored a boat for any time at all opposite to his lawn. Lord Mount-Temple, who had charge of the Bill, while not doubting Lord Bramwell's law, disputed the facts on which the noble and learned Lord founded it. Hundreds of persons were in the habit of mooring their boats opposite to the lawns of riparian proprietors, in some instances for as long a period as three months, and those owners did not see their way, under the existing law, to stopping the practice. The Bill would give them a summary remedy after forty-eight hours of the annoyance. The Lord Chancellor, as the riparian owners had not unanimously declared themselves in favour of the Bill, moved as an amendment that the debate on the third reading be adjourned to Monday next. The amendment was agreed to. The Expiring Laws Continuance Bill was read a third time and passed, and several other Bills were advanced a stage. Their Lordships rose at twenty minutes past six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday.

The House having gone into Committee, Lord R. Churchill made the usual statement as to the finances of India. At the outset he appealed to the Committee for indulgence, partly because he had only had six weeks in which to get up the accounts along with many other matters of importance, and partly because, owing to circumstances, the story he had to tell, instead of being a repetition of the Budget statement on India, was entirely new. Following the usual course, he stated first the closed accounts of 1883-4, which show an expenditure of £70,340,000, against a revenue of £71,727,000, giving a surplus of £1,387,000. Then the Revised Estimates of 1884-5 give an expenditure of £70,702,000 and a revenue of £69,992,000, or a deficit of £710,000; and the chief cause of this deficit was the depression of trade, which produced a falling-off in the customs and railway receipts. As to the Budget Estimate of 1885-6, in March last Sir A. Colvin calculated the revenue at £72,090,000, and the expenditure at £71,582,000, leaving a surplus of £508,000. Into the details of the expenditure and revenue of this year Lord Randolph went at some length, but concluded by pointing out that the Budget of March had been completely upset by the preparations rendered necessary by the advance of Russia in Central Asia. It had been necessary to place on a war footing two army corps, causing an expenditure of £2,600,000. Ordnance had been bought in England to the amount of £450,000, an extra subsidy had been paid to the Ameer of £250,000, and £1,180,000 had been spent on railway construction and railway material; and in all the late Government had found it necessary to incur liabilities to the amount of £3,780,000 in order to meet the advance of Russia. In addition to this there had been a failure in opium revenue to the extent of £600,000, there was a discount charge of £500,000, and £75,000 for a telegraph line in the Persian Gulf, so that the Budget of March had been affected on the wrong side to the extent of £4,950,000. After some general remarks tending to correct the impression that the finances of India are fluctuating, Lord Randolph dwelt next on the manner in which this extra expenditure is to be met. In the first place, the Government of India, feeling the inconvenience of proposing additional taxation in the middle of the year, had provided £1,797,000 by a reduction of expenditure, and in this way the deficit had been reduced to £3,101,000. The Government had determined to raise the loan, originally estimated in the Budget at £2,225,000 to £3,500,000 stock, bringing in about £2,992,000 in money. In this way, and by drawing on the balances and the Fund, the whole expenditure would be met with the exception of a million and a half, which would have to be left over until the next year. This, he said, was not an exhilarating statement, and it was "hard lines," he thought, for a Minister to have to make his first Budget of such a character. But it did not show the worst features of the situation. A great change for the worse had suddenly happened in India, for which Lord Dufferin and the present Government were not responsible. In the first place the extraordinary expenditure would not be abnormal, and there must be a permanent addition to the annual expenditure of not less than from a million and a-half to two millions. Describing in detail what the Government intended to do, he said they had determined to create a reserve for the Indian Army which would add 26,700 men to its strength when in the field, and would cost £150,000; to reorganise the cavalry and raise two new regiments in Bengal and one in Bombay, giving a total increase of 3,900 sabres and costing £250,000; to add a second battalion to five Ghoorka regiments, adding 4,550 men to the army and costing £140,000. In addition to this, it had been decided to arm the Indian Army with the Martini-Henry rifle; there would be additional charges for torpedo and coast defences, amounting to from £200,000 to £250,000; and of course there must be a certain increase to the British troops retained in India. Altogether, reckoning the cost of fortifications railway extensions, &c., we must be prepared for an additional charge of close upon two millions annually, and to provide this, he admitted, would tax to the utmost the ingenuity and skill of Lord Dufferin and his advisers. Examining for himself these various methods, he spoke strongly in favour of economy, and especially a reduction of the public works expenditure, maintaining that if it came to a choice we had no right to impose additional taxation until we had obtained from retrenchment everything which it was capable of yielding. This led him into an animated attack on the supineness and want of foresight shown by the Government of Lord Ripon, who, with the knowledge at his command, ought to have foreseen and provided against the advance of Russia, instead of spending money on public works and needless remission of taxation and reductions of the army. At the same time, he held that there was ample vitality and elasticity in the revenues of India, illustrating his contention by an elaborate comparison of the yield of taxes in 1874 and 1884, and paying a high tribute to the financial management and the reforms effected by Lord Lytton. After touching briefly on the opium cultivation, the land settlement, the Indian forests and the extension of Indian railways, which now cover a length of 12,000 miles, he announced that in the next Parliament the Government would propose or support the institution of a Parliamentary inquiry into the system of government of India, among other reasons, in order that the opinion of educated natives might be heard. Finally, he expressed a hope that, though this Parliament had done little or nothing for India, the new Parliament would show a lively and consistent interest in our great possession, and would not consider its affairs either as too high for comprehension or too low for notice. Mr. Cross protested against the departure from precedent in the bitter partisan attack on Lord Ripon's Administration without notice, and contended that no Governor-General would have been wise in spending money on military preparations at the time instead of remitting taxation. He discussed the financial situation at length, agreeing in the main with the Secretary of State as to the difficulty of increasing taxation and the necessity of economy. Sir G. Balfour advocated the encouragement of commercial relations between India and Afghanistan, and dwelt upon the importance of improving the position of the native army. Sir G. Campbell entered upon a long detailed criticism of Lord R. Churchill's statement; and Captain Aylmer commented upon the desirability of completing the frontier railways. Lord Hartington entered a protest against the course pursued by Lord R. Churchill in making a speech which, he considered, might have been appropriate on a vote of censure on the conduct of a Governor-General, but which he strongly deprecated in connection with an official statement on Indian finance. Such matters, he maintained, ought not to be introduced at all, but if they were they should not be introduced without notice to the persons whose conduct was impugned. While declining to attempt a vindication of the conduct of Lord Ripon or Lord Kimberley, he pointed out that Parliament had distinctly approved and ratified the policy of the late Government in relation to the Afghan frontier question, and he contended that the annexation or the retention of Candahar would inevitably have alienated the Afghan people from this country; and although the late Government had not been able to undo all that had been done by Lord Lytton, their retirement from Candahar had had the beneficial effect of showing the Afghans that they had no intention of pursuing a policy of annexation. As regards what he described as the "temporary suspension" of the railway to Quetta, it was part of the same policy which induced the late Government to abandon Candahar, and he maintained that if it had been pushed forward earlier it would have been a plain intimation to the Afghans of the existence in England of a policy of annexation, which the late Government were particularly anxious to avoid. Turning to the charge made against Lord Ripon of reducing the strength of the Indian Army, he argued that, while he may have reduced the strength of the less efficient forces, the strength of the more efficient part of the Army had been materially increased; while as to his financial policy, he pointed out that it was a return to the policy initiated by Lord Mayo and approved by Lord Lytton, and he believed that the reduction of taxation upon native products which Lord Ripon had inaugurated was a wise policy which could not fail to encourage the extension of trade in the country. Mr. Stanhope, who agreed with the contention that Indian affairs should be kept outside party politics, twitted the Liberal party with having taken every opportunity of calling in question the policy of Lord Lytton, and especially alluded to the attack made upon him by Mr. Childers in 1883. Entering upon the question of the frontier railways, he justified the occupation of Quetta by Lord Beaconsfield's Government, and, while complaining of the abandonment of Candahar, admitted that it was to the credit of Lord Ripon that he had been able to induce the late Government to continue the occupation of the Pishin Valley. In conclusion he dealt with the finances of India as administered by the late Government, and contended that the large increase in the civil expenditure of the last few years was altogether unjustifiable, especially in the face of the resolution which he carried in the House in 1883. Sir A. Gordon asked for further information as to the occupation of the Pishin Valley; and Mr. Cropper dwelt upon the subject of the salt tax and the tax on opium. The Lord Mayor, Sir H. Verney, and Mr. Onslow touched on various points in the statement. Mr. Buchanan made an acrimonious attack on the Indian Secretary, which exposed him to a call to order from the Chair; and after a brief reply from Lord R. Churchill, the usual resolution was agreed to. The report stage of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was then taken, and several new clauses were considered.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff has issued an address to the electors of Portsmouth, in which he says that the acceptance of the mission to Egypt does not entail the severance of his political connection with the borough, to the renewal of which he confidently looks forward when the time comes for another contest.

The London and Westminster Working Men's Constitutional Association had their annual excursion at Hughenden on Monday. Among the toasts proposed at the luncheon was "The memory of the late Earl of Beaconsfield," which was drunk in solemn silence. Mr. Burdett-Coutts, replying to the toast of "The Conservative Candidates," maintained that in the battle about to ensue the Conservatives had gained a distinct vantage-ground from their tenure of office. They had already in six short weeks restored public confidence at home and abroad; they had made effective progress with the useful legislation which all the majority of the late Government could not carry; had cashed the cheques which the late Government, bankrupt and dishonoured, had drawn upon the national exchequer; had already infused new hope and reviving moral strength into every colony and dependency of the Empire. They had gathered up and strengthened the threads of our relations with foreign countries, strained to the utmost by the alternate precipitation and apologies, the political poltroonery and buffoonery of their predecessors. This had been called "a stop-gap Government"—he thanked them for the word. It was not the first time that the gap between a nation's danger and a nation's safety, however short it might have been, had been stopped by such means. It was not the first time that men, few in numbers, but instinct with national spirit, had boldly come forward to stand between their country and the gathering storm of national discredit and ruin. In that sense, and that alone, this Government was indeed a "stop-gap Government." The faint-hearted suggestion that the Conservatives should not take office had no basis of patriotism; but was the same sort of party trick that the late Government had attempted to play when, in their own jaunty phrase, "they rode for a fall." One deep in the confidence of the party had told him on the night of the defeat that it was planned by the Radicals, "who had some downy advisers," and a few nights since had confessed, "Yes, it was planned; and now they are very sorry for it." They had reckoned without their host. The patriotism, honesty, and love of fair play which still characterised the mass of the Liberal party had, to the ill-concealed amazement of the Radicals, kept them true to their pledges. Had Lord Salisbury obeyed mere party suggestions and refused to take office, he would have deprived his country of those real and solid benefits which had accrued from his advent to office, and which—incomparably great for so short a time—were now conspicuous to the nation and the world. Honesty of purpose and "country before party" had had their just reward; and if Conservatives held boldly to these principles in the future they would secure the confidence of the nation.

A meeting of Conservatives was held on Monday night at Walton, near Preston, in support of the candidature of Lord Cranborne for the Darwen Division of Lancashire. Lord Cranborne and Mr. W. T. Marriott, Judge Advocate-General, were the principal speakers. Lord Cranborne said there was one subject which was avoided by the Liberals, and that was the subject of trade. Undeniably the question was a very difficult one. The causes of the depression were to a certain extent removed entirely from the power of legislation to cope with; but the Conservative party was resolved to leave no stone unturned to find out the extent and the reason, and if possible the remedies, for the present depressed condition of trade; so they found that one of the first acts which the so-much-despised Conservative Government had done was to advise Her Majesty to appoint a Commission to inquire into the cause of the depression. The Government did not pay attention merely to the commercial prosperity of the nation; they were equally attentive to the social comfort and social morality of the nation. The Conservative Government had brought two other Bills before Parliament, one dealing with the housing of the poor, and the other with criminal law amendment; and though they had only been in power one month they had done a great deal to forward those two measures. Referring to Ireland, he said the Conservative policy in regard to that country was and must be essentially one of peace. Great differences of opinion might exist how that peace and that order might be kept up, and undoubtedly the knowledge which they had possessed that the condition of Ireland was now tranquil must affect their judgment; but the policy, above all, which must be avoided in dealing with Ireland was that of pusillanimity—firmness, justice, anything but pusillanimity. He thought they might trust the present advisers of the Crown, armed as they were with the knowledge of the present condition of affairs, to conduct the government of that country without tampering with rebellion or doing any action to make the face of England blush. Mr. Marriott observed that the division in the late Government had been the cause of their failure. Even now they were more divided than ever. Mr. Chamberlain had said that though the Liberals were not in office they were in power; they had better remain there. What more could the disinterested Mr. Chamberlain want than the power of doing good to his dear working men without the responsibilities and emoluments of office? The happiness, the contentment, and the prosperity of the working classes would be far more affected in the immediate future by a good policy than by any legislation philanthropists could suggest. What a change, Mr. Marriott went on to say, had come over the state of affairs since the Conservatives took office! Five weeks ago in every foreign capital there was distrust and suspicion of England, the bitterest complaints of everything, and the bitterest hostility and enmity in every Cabinet in Europe. Now, with Lord Salisbury at the head of the Government, other nations knew that England's policy would correspond with that pursued by Palmerston and Beaconsfield, and with the course adopted by Conservatives and Liberals alike until the unfortunate star of Mr. Gladstone rose over the country. Resolutions of confidence in the Government and Lord Cranborne were carried by overwhelming majorities.

The Marquis of Lorne, the Liberal candidate for the new borough of Hampstead, on Tuesday addressed a numerously-attended public meeting of the electors, held at the Hollybush Assembly Rooms. Mr. Hugh M. Matheson, president of the Borough of Hampstead Liberal Association, presided. The Marquis of Lorne was received with cordial applause. Replying to objections which had been brought against him as a candidate, Lord Lorne said that, though he did not agree with his father in all things political, yet he felt proud of being the son of the author of *The Reign of Law*, and he also contended that it was not in accordance with the English Constitution to suppose that a person who was related to the Sovereign should abstain from taking an active part in public matters. In answer to a third objection, he argued that the experience he had gained as Governor-General of Canada was a qualification for a Liberal candidate. He was not ashamed to say that his mind had been considerably influenced by what he had seen there as to free churches and free schools. There was an idea that those who had "handles" to their names could not be anything but Whigs. The "handle" to his name happened to be a mere courtesy title; but he reminded the meeting of the services rendered to political progress by the Whigs in the past, and said that he believed their modern representatives were very much what his friends called him—a somewhat advanced Liberal. He also appealed to the past record of his Parliamentary life to show that he had been a consistent Liberal of that school, and expressed himself in favour of the disestablishment of the Church in Scotland, leaving the question of disendowment to be subsequently dealt with. He was in favour of making the sale of land as easy as the sale of an old umbrella; and, as to Ireland, he approved of consultations with the leaders of the Nationalist party, with respect to which the Conservatives had been rapidly converted, but it was impossible to consent to separation. He thought that sufficient consideration had not been given to the wish of the Irish people in regard to education, and he believed that greater powers of local government might be given to them on such questions as railways. After the noble Lord had adverted to a number of other topics and answered questions, a resolution in support of his candidature was almost unanimously passed.

Mr. Osborne Morgan addressed his constituents at Rhostyllen, near Wrexham, on Tuesday night. After referring to the action of the Conservatives in connection with the Medical Relief Bill, he went on to review what the Welsh members had done for Welsh Nonconformists. They had, he said, opened the old Universities to Dissenters on exactly the same terms as Churchmen, and by the passing of the Burial Act, for which he struggled for ten years, they secured to Nonconformists the privilege of hearing from the lips of their own ministers words of comfort uttered over the graves of their wives and children. They also took education out of the hands of the clergy and placed it in the hands of the people, and obtained a grant of £10,500 a year for the purpose of Welsh education, and but for the Liberal Government having been turned out they would have obtained an additional £13,000 or £14,000 a year for the purpose of intermediate education. Concerning the future, one of the burning questions would be the reform of the land laws. He wanted to see land as easily transferable as any other kind of property. For this he might be called a Socialist, a Nihilist, or even a Dynamiter; but he thought he could point to a Tory in whom there was a great deal more dynamite—Lord Randolph Churchill, who was put into his present place by Mr. Parnell and Mr. Healy, and his Government would have to pay the price. He would tell the meeting why Lord Randolph Churchill did not go to Liverpool; he dared not face a Liverpool audience. The speaker knew those Liverpool Orangemen; they had their faults, but they were not the men to truckle to Parnell and Healy. For himself, he knew he should have a hard struggle at the next election, but he felt confident of victory, and should continue to do his utmost to uphold those Liberal principles which had done, and would yet do, so much for this country.

Speaking at West Dereham, Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., observed that the other day Mr. Goschen told the Manchester Chamber of Commerce that the owners and occupiers of land were still making £140,000,000 per annum. Mr. Giffen, Statistical Secretary to the Board of Trade, said the tenant-farmers of this country netted for their capital and work no less than £70,000,000 annually. How did he make that out? By looking almost at his own statistics, and seeing that Schedule B was assessed at £70,000,000. But that was simply the gross rental of the land. Schedule A was also assessed on the gross rental of the land, and if from that were deducted, as there ought to be, 15 per cent. for repairs, insurance, and outgoings, as well as tithes and land taxes, it would be found that the rental of this country was something like £50,000,000 only, instead of £70,000,000. As to the case of tenant-farmers, Mr. Giffen said that they were still making £70,000,000 per annum; but he knew perfectly well, because he told the Duke of Richmond's Commission so, that the farmer in England was supposed to make half his rent as profit, and in Scotland and Ireland one-third of his rent as profit; so that instead of the farmers' income, according to these statistics, being £70,000,000, it was something under £30,000,000 annually. But he believed that the farmers had not made even this amount for the last three or four years.

A deputation consisting of upwards of 100 Liberals, representing the Borough Hundred of Aylesbury, met at Waddesden on Monday and proceeded to Waddesden Manor, in order to present to Mr. Gladstone an address of congratulation, in which they expressed a hope that the right hon. gentleman would speedily be restored to health and again lead the Liberal party to victory. After luncheon Mr. G. Russell, M.P., proposed "The health of Mrs. Gladstone," who gracefully acknowledged the compliment. Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild then thanked the deputation, and through them the whole body of the Liberal electors in the borough who had fought and won the recent brilliant victory. He anticipated that, no matter what the probable prospects of the Tory party might be, they would fight at the next election, and in that case the Liberals must be prepared to give them such a beating as would practically annihilate them.

Lord Salisbury received at the Foreign Office on Wednesday a deputation of workmen delegates engaged in various branches of home industry connected with the British, colonial, and home sugar production and manufacture. The deputation was introduced by the Lord Mayor. Lord Salisbury (after addresses by several of the delegates) observed that it did not need that important deputation to prove to him that theirs was one of the gravest questions which came under consideration at the present time; and he well knew the suffering that was being endured on account of the condition of their trade. He had no sympathy with those who said that the trade was not depressed, and who endeavoured to prove by figures that it was doing well; for he could not doubt that a severe blow was inflicted upon a British industry by the creation of a large amount of purely artificial competition, and it was very sad that a great industry was withering from such a cause. But when he was asked what remedy he could apply, he would offer some plea on behalf of the Foreign Office, which year after year had been appealed to to put a stop to the evil, as though there was some magic in negotiation, and that by much despatch-writing they could do as they liked. The matter did not lie with the Foreign Office; but it lay in the question whether or not they were absolutely precluded by principle from adopting any kind of countervailing duty. That was not a matter for the Foreign Office, or the Ministry, or the present

Parliament, but for the constituencies of the country to decide. The Foreign Office could give no help unless the public made up its mind upon the question. If it was the will of the people that the idea involved in reciprocity or countervailing duties was wrong in principle, be it so; but then any evils consequent on the bounties would continue, and they must not expect the Foreign Office to be able to stop it. They were bound by the accepted doctrines of the day, and to ask them to propose a countervailing duty was to impose a harder task than Pharaoh's taskmaster ever imposed. It was for the people to commit to the Foreign Office the power of saying to other Governments: "Unless you are able to find some means of alleviating this which we conceive to be an injury, it is in our power, and we shall exercise it, to impose a countervailing duty." Negotiations carried on backed with that power would no doubt obtain a satisfactory settlement. The deputation then thanked his Lordship and retired.

Sir Henry Holland, M.P., the Conservative candidate for the new borough of Hampstead, addressed a numerously-attended meeting of electors at the Brondesbury-hall, West Hampstead, on Wednesday evening. Mr. J. S. Fletcher presided. Sir Henry Holland expressed his pleasure at seeing so many present, because it showed that they were determined not to wait until the time of the general election before commencing work. Proceeding to deal with general political topics, the hon. member condemned the wavering foreign policy of the late Government, and declared that they scuttled out of office because they could not face the country. The "old pilot," for that was the new name of Mr. Gladstone, ran his ship on a rock and wrecked it, and the "old umbrella" had been turned inside out. He believed that the feeling of the country in regard to the change of Government was one of relief and a desire to give the Conservatives a fair chance. The present Government were determined not to make promises they could not keep. As regarded foreign questions, they desired to have a firm but conciliatory policy, and already, judging by foreign papers, a better feeling prevailed as regarded this country. They heartily desired peace, but to preserve peace they were bound to be prepared for war. Therefore the present Government would do its best to keep up the Army and Navy in a state of efficiency. It was also in the interests of trade and commerce that we should keep up an efficient Navy, which was, in fact, an insurance on our commerce. The strengthening of the ties which united this country to its colonies was another important point, not only in the interest of the colonies, but very much more so, he thought, in the interests of this country. Nothing was more true than the saying that trade followed the flag. After referring to the home legislation now being carried through by the Conservatives, and expressing himself against disestablishment of the Church of England, Sir Henry remarked that he believed that if the Conservatives put the real issues involved fairly and frankly before the new electors the defeat of the Conservative party would not be so certain as some people expected. Mr. W. T. Marriott, Q.C., M.P., delivered a vigorous speech, which was received with great enthusiasm, in support of the candidature of Sir Henry Holland, in the course of which he contended that the Conservatives had in recent years outdone the Liberals in the number of measures passed for the benefit of the working-classes, and upheld the Conservatives as the only Constitutional party at the present day.

Mr. James Lowther, addressing a meeting at East Barkwith, in the Louth Division, on Thursday, said the main cause of the depression in trade was the serious diminution in the profit attached to the growing of wheat. The monstrous clap-trap cry of a cheap loaf must be discarded as moonshine. He hoped every impartial man in the country would go with him in urging upon the Legislature the fact that some means must be found of terminating once for all the serious depression in agriculture. If it went on much longer it would prove to be the absolute ruin of every man, woman, and child in the country.

A Parliamentary paper containing correspondence respecting the finances of Egypt, extending from February 19 to July 24, has been issued. The correspondence, which is of a voluminous character, opens with a communication from Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha in answer to the claims of the Porte to be represented on the Egyptian Caisse de la Dette. On March 17 Earl Granville forwarded a circular to Her Majesty's Embassies abroad intimating that the declarations for the settlement of the Egyptian financial question had that day been signed by the representatives of all the Powers, with the exception of Turkey. Following this is a prolonged correspondence with the Powers respecting the guarantee of the loan, the assent of the Sultan having in the meantime been obtained. On April 20 Earl Granville informed the French Government that her Majesty's Government agreed to their proposal that the guarantee should be signed by an English and French official jointly on behalf of all the guaranteeing Powers. On May 14 Earl Granville wrote to Sir E. Malet, stating that the British Government was anxious to meet the wishes of Prince Bismarck as far as possible regarding the mode of issue of the new loan, and were prepared to propose the following plan to the guaranteeing Powers. To offer the whole loan to be tendered for simultaneously in Paris, Berlin, and London, the tenders to be opened simultaneously at the three capitals, and the Bank of England to allot the loan to the highest tenderers, irrespective of nationality. On May 27 Earl Granville wrote to Lord Lyons complaining of delays and difficulties in arranging the details with regard to the issue of the loan, and urging that as the French proposals had been accepted by the British Government, there should be no further delay. On the 30th of June Lord Salisbury wrote to Her Majesty's representative at Berlin, pointing out the embarrassment caused by the delay in the issue of the loan, and suggesting its immediate issue, with subsequent ratification by the German and Austrian Parliaments. On the 11th of July communications were received stating that the German and Austrian Governments would ratify the convention, and on the 15th of July Lord Lyons informed Lord Salisbury that M. de Freycinet had consented, in common with the other Powers, to a similar ratification. On the 21st of July it was announced that the issue of the loan had been entrusted by the Egyptian Government to Messrs. de Rothschild, and on the 28th of July Lord Salisbury telegraphed to Her Majesty's Embassies that the loan would be issued on the 30th at £95 10s.

A White Paper has also been published giving the correspondence between the Foreign Office (with approval of the Treasury) and Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, respecting the issue of the new Egyptian Loan. It includes the prospectus of the loan, and a translation of the Convention of March 18, 1885, made between the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, and of the relative Khedivial decrees of July 27 and 28, 1885. The essential points appear in a Treasury minute, dated July 28, which runs as follows:—"My Lords read the letter from the Foreign Office, dated July 25, 1885, covering a copy of a letter in which Lord Salisbury asks Messrs. N. M. Rothschild whether they would undertake, on behalf of the Egyptian Government, the issue and management of the Egyptian Guaranteed Loan, in concert with the house of Messrs. Rothschild Frères, in Paris, and with the house of Messrs. Bleichroeder, in Berlin. The Chancellor of the Exchequer informs the Board that he has been in communication with Lord Rothschild on behalf of Messrs. N. M. Rothschild, and with Mr. Vincent, the representative of the Egyptian Government, and that he has also consulted Mr. Daniell, the Government broker, upon the conditions under which the said loan should be issued. Three questions discussed in the course of these communications deserve special attention, namely:—1. The method of proceeding, whether by tender or by subscriptions at a fixed price. 2. The amount of the commission and the allowance for expenses. 3. The price to be eventually fixed for the loan. 1. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would have preferred proceeding by tender, as calculated perhaps to secure the best price for the Egyptian Government, and, had it been a loan to be raised in London only, he would have had no hesitation in advising the raising of it by tender. Lord Rothschild, however, pointed out that that method of proceeding is quite unknown in Paris and Berlin, in which capitals the loan was to be raised in the same proportions as in London, and that under such conditions the operation would be practically impossible. In presence of a positive statement to this effect by the responsible agent for the loan in England, the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not think it right to press his view further. 2. It was agreed that the commission to the agents of the loan should be £500 per million, the rate paid to the Bank of England for issuing loans raised by the English Government, and that the reasonable expenses of the issue would be allowed, including stamps, printing, advertisements, &c., and ¼ per cent. brokerage. 3. The Powers having assented to the immediate issue of the loan, the preceding preliminaries having been settled, and intimation received from Egypt that the necessary decrees were ready for issue, Lord Salisbury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with Mr. Vincent as representing the Government of Egypt, met Lord Rothschild. The issue price of the loan was fully discussed, and was fixed at 95½, with the concurrence of the Government broker."

MR. FORSTER ON GOVERNMENT POLICY.

The Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., addressed a crowded meeting of his constituents on Saturday night in St. George's Hall, Bradford.

Mr. Forster, who on rising was enthusiastically greeted, said: I have been told by many people in London, "You are leaving your old borough and taking leave." I don't wish anybody to have that impression. I shall leave my borough when the members of the Central Division leave me, not before. I may just say that they will have to get rid of me. Referring to his action on the Irish question Mr. Forster said: With regard to Ireland, whatever else is said or thought as to my action on the Irish question, it will be felt that I had a hard task before me. There is no question which so much penetrates to the very depths of society, which raises so many passions, which has vexed so many interests, as the question of land tenure. There is hardly a country in the world in which it has been seriously altered without an actual revolution. My colleagues had the comparatively pleasant task of carrying through the Land Act, while I was in Ireland trying to control the passions that existed, and to preserve as best I could law and order. One of the most important parts of the provisions of the Land Act, viz.: that of fixity of tenure, is, I think, in no small degree owing to my representations. In this hall I have defended my course, and you appeared at the time to agree with me. I don't know whether I ever mentioned before how my difficulties were increased by the rejection of the Compensation for Disturbance Bill. I believe if that Bill had been passed the whole question would have been easier to deal with, and the fierceness of the agitation would have been removed, and we might have passed the final measure without much difficulty. I am not surprised that it was rejected. It seemed to be a great innovation at the time, but it was nothing to the innovations which took place two or three years afterwards. But I can well recollect when it was rejected. I said to myself that it would be wise for me to resign and have nothing to do with the Irish Government. I had made a proposal (and had got my colleagues to agree with me), which I thought was the best way of dealing with these difficult matters. If I had been looking merely to my own comfort, or quietness, or even to my own reputation, I should have resigned—and been a free man for action afterwards; but I thought I should do harm by resigning, and with a heavy heart I remained at my post. I have told you what that year was in Ireland, and I never hope to have such an experience again. Nothing that could be done to me—no abuse that could be showered upon me—will ever equal the experience of those months. The feeling that I was in Ireland to see that men were not murdered; to see that they were not ruined because they had done what was right; to see that they were allowed to earn their living without interference by others; to feel that I had no power to do this, and that the reins of power were slipping from me hour by hour and day by day, was an experience which I hope no man who has my duties to perform will have again. You know we passed an Act for which, I admit, there ought to be a very strong reason. I am willing to admit that if I had had the option at the time of the Prevention of Crimes Act (which was passed immediately after my resignation) and of the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, I would have much preferred the Crimes Act. I had not the option. I believe it was the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act that did prevent a civil war in Ireland. You know the reason why I resigned. It was in one respect the hardest resolution I ever took, because I did feel that I was getting the better of this agitation against law and order, against liberty and life. If I had been able to remain with a good conscience for a few months longer, I could have completed the work. But I could not agree with the measures that were taken, and therefore resigned. You know what immediately happened—the terrible murder of two dear friends of mine; and it is a bitter thing to me sometimes to reflect that if I had been there they would not have tried to murder them. They would have gone on with their efforts to murder me, but fortunately for me a kind Providence did not deem fit that I should be murdered. One of the first things I did then was to go to Mr. Gladstone and say, "Now I am out of office it would only add to your troubles for me to go back as Secretary, but if Lord Spencer has any difficulty from want of information I will go over and do what I can." Lord Spencer had already got things in his own hands, and he wanted no assistance. The Prevention of Crimes Act was passed. Terrible as were these murders, they saved Ireland. If it had not been for these murders the Government would not have thought of pressing forward immediately this Crimes Act. As sure as I stand here matters would have got from bad to worse, till we should have had to put them down, not with the Prevention of Crimes Act, but by an armed force and with cannon. Now the present Government are allowing the Crimes Act to expire. The responsibility rests with them. I take this opportunity to say what the non-renewal of the Crimes Act means. It means this—if anybody wishes to commit any agrarian outrage, any outrage or murder, it would almost be impossible to convict. No jury would convict the culprit. It also means this—that even if there be no wish to commit these outrages, there is certain to be the determination of using what you know was stated by one of the Irish agitators to be their great weapon—the "boycotting pike." People will be intimidated, and unable to earn their living or carry on their daily work, or to do what ought to be done; und more than that, inasmuch as the Government, with their eyes open, have allowed the provisions against boycotting to cease, the people of Ireland will not unnaturally jump to the conclusion that it is not only legal, but that it is permissible. I feel myself bound to say what are the dangers, although with all my heart I trust Providence will enable Ireland to escape from them. I have great confidence in Lord Carnarvon. I know him to be a most conscientious man, and one of the most fearless men. I wish him success; but the restitution or recurrence to the ordinary law has not been helped by the speeches of Lord Randolph Churchill or Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. I am told that it would have been impossible for the present Government to have renewed the Crimes Act. I don't believe in these impossibilities. There would have been opposition, there would have been obstruction, and the Irish members would no doubt have vehemently opposed it. There would have been some opposition below the gangway on our own side; but all those members of the late Government and all their friends who did think that it was their duty to bring forward such a measure would have had to support it if brought forward by the Conservatives. It would not have been impossible, but what would have been impossible would have been any alliance between the Tory party and Mr. Parnell and his friends. However, let us now hope for the best. You have heard about the Kilmainham Treaty. I hope I shall hear no more about it. As an Irish Tory member said the other day, "We have now a Maamtrasna alliance." A word or two on foreign policy. I thought it my duty to make speeches upon Egyptian policy, which I am afraid have given some umbrage to many of you—to some of my old friends; but I really do not see anything in them that was not true or anything that it was not my duty to say. Looking back at the first few months, I do not think that the Government after February, 1884, realised their responsibility any more than they did before. Then came, in May, 1884, the publication of the Gordon despatches. By what I must call the indecision and vacillation of the Government—and I am prepared before the election to prove it, if you think it necessary—hundreds of our own brave men had died, thousands of their opponents (some of the bravest men in the world) had fallen; there had been a ghastly, useless, bloody war without any advantage to be obtained from it. And what was the position of General Gordon—without any doubt the greatest man England has had for many years? I had said that I believed him to be in great danger, that efforts ought to be at once taken to rescue him, that this danger had been increased by the conduct of the Government towards him, that the sooner an expedition went out to rescue him the better, that the country would insist upon its being sent, and that it would be very costly if not sent at once. At last it was sent, and it arrived too late. And why? Because of the vacillation of the Government, because they did not listen to the representations of Lord Wolseley, and were still not able to realise his danger. Now it is coming out day by day by the information we have obtained, and are obtaining, that this story of his being killed by treachery—that it was caused by the approach of our troops to Khartoum—was one of the greatest delusions ever man had. There was want of food, almost starvation. General Gordon had justified—far more than justified—the prophecy I ventured to give, that he would rise superior to all his difficulties and dangers, and maintain his post as England's hero at Khartoum for month after month. These were the facts which we had before us, but that alone would not have induced me to vote against the Government if it had not been for this additional fact—that I could see no security whatever that that vacillation and uncertainty would not continue. I had every reason to believe that it would continue, because one Minister said one thing and another Minister said another. I said, "The interests of England are at stake. We have had enough of this. I cannot vote for the Government. I must declare my disapproval of their Egyptian policy." After the report of the vote of censure I received not unnaturally a vote of censure myself. The gentlemen who passed it I think ought to have told me what they would have done. There was a meeting of the Liberal Association, and a resolution was passed. (A voice: "By how many electors?") That I cannot say. It reads: "That it is the opinion of this newly-elected General Representative Council of the Bradford Liberal Association that the Government have shown by their past and present policy a proper and due regard to the honour and interest of the United Kingdom in their home and foreign administration." If that was really the opinion of those who differed from me, why do they not rebuke my excellent colleague? and why did they allow in their meeting opinions to be expressed in reality blaming the Government more strongly than I have blamed them? The real fact of the matter is this—there are hardly any of you in Bradford who would endorse the resolution. Although you may have respect for the members of the late Government and Mr. Gladstone, there are some of you who cannot look back with any approval to their foreign administration in Egypt. It is my duty to speak out and say what I think. Well, so much for the past. I must say a word or two about the future. There may be some questions which I have still not absolutely made up my mind on. A man would be foolish to say he had made up his mind upon all political questions. I will tell you when such is the case, and then I shall say, "Vote for me upon my merits or demerits"—but let every elector for the Central Division remember this—that I, as your old member, have at least a right to ask that you should vote for me according as you think—and not as you may be told by any one. A friend of mine for whom I have great respect has told me, and I cannot help reading a few words which he said, "One thing is certain. In the new democratic dispensation—single-member constituencies, upon which we are now entering—there will be less independent candidates than there used to be." I do not agree with that. Defined as straight Liberals and straight Tories, that will be the order of the day, and this to all. An old friend of mine has been asked by some Tories in Bradford to stand. I am sure if we oppose one another we shall have nothing but fairness, and mutual respect, and good fellowship. But I should like Mr. M. Wand to define, first, what is a straight Tory in his mind, and whether he means to be it or not? If he is a straight Tory after the fashion of Lord Randolph Churchill, I must then just say a word to other Tories of Bradford. If he is a follower of Lord Randolph Churchill, they have no security whatever that straight Toryism may not lead to the Disestablishment of the Church or the dissolution of the Union. It is just as likely to do so as not. Now, as to straight Liberals. I had a day or two ago a letter from a gentleman, in which he said, "Just be good enough to send me your definition of Liberalism. It will be of use to me in the coming election." I wrote back to him that when he had got a little older he would hardly ask a stranger what would take many pages to answer. There is no doubt about the great principles of Liberalism. You cannot, however, get rid of the responsibility of finding out what a candidate wishes upon any particular question, and he cannot get rid of the responsibility of informing you and telling you what he will do if he be returned to Parliament by shifting it off and saying "I belong to the Liberal party." Nor can he do it by saying that he will follow any man, however great, or eminent, or popular, and deservedly popular, be that man. Some of my enemies have supposed that I have not the greatest feelings of respect for Mr. Gladstone. I have the greatest possible respect for him, after working together so long, and for his kindness to me; but I could not by any possibility do anything more derogatory to Mr. Gladstone than say I would give up my right of judgment upon any matter in order to follow him in any other. There is some danger in England of what they have got a word for in America—which rather puzzled me at first—that is, "one man" politics. In a great many matters by merely following individuals—which, to quote an expression used by my friend Lord Rosebery, is what I may call an unbrella policy—if we can hardly walk without an umbrella—if we are obliged to have one—then by all means let it be the umbrella which Mr. Gladstone holds up. But there is this about all umbrellas—that if they are very big—as they will have to be—they come down before your eyes and you do not see where you are going. I think a good many people who were walking under the umbrella did not know where they were going when they got to Egypt and the Soudan. I must honestly say that I have not confidence in Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy. Judged by the past, I could not undertake to follow him wherever he leads. I think it right to tell you what are the matters upon which I care most at this moment. We want fresh land laws. We want perfect freedom in the transfer of land. We want not only a provision that land should not be tied up more than money, but I admit that such is the disadvantage to the country of the land being tied up at all that it ought to be very difficult to tie it up by any settlements. I am in favour, therefore, of very strong land laws, and I agree with the letter written by Mr. Bright a few days ago. But I do not approve of the State taking the land for itself, or taking it from one man and giving it to another. I believe that nothing would be more unjust or cause more misery. When a man dies without a will, the State should see that all his children get equal shares of his estate. I am not in favour, however, of curtailing a man's power of willing his own property. (A Voice: "What about disestablishment?") On that question I hold the same views as I did some years ago. I told you then that I believed that the Establishment does good at present, and so long as I feel that, upon the whole, it does good, I should not be the man to pull it down, not even if I found a combination between Lord R. Churchill and the Disestablishment Society. I do not believe the Church will be disestablished until the mass of the people—that is to say, the majority of the electors—think it will be a good thing that it should be. If they do come to that conclusion, then of course they will be the rulers, and they must carry out their convictions. I am in favour of a very wide measure of local government, and I would include in it a very full dealing with what is called the liquor question. I would give local government to Ireland, as I would to England or Scotland, with this exception—that at present I would not give to the localities the control of the

police. I am not in favour of what I suppose is Mr. Chamberlain's proposal of elective councils. I believe that will be Home Rule in disguise, and that it would be a lever for the actual dissolution of the Union, and possibly for the separation of the two countries. I hope we shall soon see a reform in the House of Lords, and I don't believe it will be possible for the House of Lords to continue in its present condition alongside of that Parliament we shall elect. With regard to the Navy, I believe it is a matter of almost life and death to the working people that our Navy should be strong. As regards foreign affairs, I say don't be misled by those who tell you they are not your business. You can't help being in the unity of nations. If you don't meddle with foreign affairs, foreign countries will meddle with you. You must look after yourselves, and you must do what is right, you must do what is honourable, and you must keep up your strength and power. Be very careful about incurring responsibilities, but when you do incur them fulfil them. And I say the same thing with regard to our colonial affairs, and you know if there is one thing I hope to live for—to take part in political action some years hence—it is that I may see the British Empire existing all the world over, the children she has sent out themselves self-governing communities, united with her in a bond of peace, which shall be an example to the world.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AT HULL.

Mr. Chamberlain spoke at great length on Wednesday night in Hengler's Circus at Hull on the main points of the Liberal programme for the reformed Parliament. Having insisted on the necessity of union among Liberals in spite of the different degrees of advancement of their opinions, he expressed the opinion that the pace would be a little faster in the future than in the past. He was not surprised at the demand for a definite programme; if the people were content with the old formulas and watchwords, the enfranchisement of two millions of men would be a barren and unprofitable business. The great evil with which we have to deal is the "excessive inequality in the distribution of riches:"—

"Now I want you to make this the first object in the Liberal programme for the reformed Parliament. It is not our duty, it is not our wish, to pull down and abase the rich, although I do not think that the excessive aggregation of wealth in a few hands is any advantage to anybody. But our object is to elevate the poor, to raise the general condition of the people. Our ideal should be that in this rich country, where everything seems to be in profusion, that an honest, a decent, and an industrious man should be able to earn a livelihood for himself and his family, should have access to some means of self-improvement and enjoyment, and should be able to lay aside something for sickness and old age. Nothing would be more undesirable than that we should remove the stimulus to industry and thrift, and I am opposed to confiscation in every shape or form. On the other hand, I am in favour of accompanying the protection which we afford to property with a large and stringent interpretation of the obligations of property."

Mr. Chamberlain insisted that the time had come when education ought to be free:—

"I hope that working men will insist that in this, as in other countries, the system shall cease which is only defended in deference to false and pedantic notions of political economy and in the supposed interests of denominational schools. Who are the people who are so anxious for the independence of the working classes? The nobility, the gentry, the professors, the editors of newspapers, every one of whom owes more or less to free education, by scholarships or other endowments in connection with our public schools or Universities, and to the cost of which they have not contributed a single farthing."

Turning to taxation, Mr. Chamberlain argued that the working classes are paying upon their available incomes more than double the rate which is paid by the upper and the middle classes, and that the only remedy for the inequality is some scheme of graduated taxation—"of taxation which increases in proportion to the amount of the property tax." Having explained that his proposal does not clash with any opinion expressed by Mr. Gladstone, he went on to consider the reform of the land laws as lying at the root of the whole matter. He maintained that "the soil of every country originally belonged to its inhabitants, and if it has been thought expedient to create private ownership in place of the common rights, at least that ownership must be considered as a trust, and subject to the conditions of a trust, the land must be owned so as to give the greatest employment to the largest number of persons, and so as to secure the greatest possible return of the produce of the soil." Having exemplified the evils of the present system from what he had recently seen in Wiltshire, and from the case of the Highland crofters, Mr. Chamberlain submitted "practical proposals."

"I am in favour of free trade in land. That includes the registration of titles, the cheapening of transfer, the abolition of settlements and entails, and of the custom of primogeniture in cases of intestacy. But we must go further if we want to go to the root of the matter. Well, now, what can we do for the farmer? If we want to revive agriculture the farmer must become prosperous. There is only one thing that can benefit the farmer, and that is a fair rent fixed by an impartial tribunal, with the right of free sale of the good-will of his undertaking just the same as any other trader. As for the labourers, they demand that facilities shall be afforded to them for having decent cottages and fair allotments at reasonable rents, and with security of tenure. Well, why should they not have it? Who would be injured if they did have it? Where the landlord will not do his duty to the land the local authority should have power to step in. Only one other condition is absolutely necessary; and that is, that when the local authority acquires land for this or any other public purpose, it should not be called upon to pay an extravagant or unnatural price; it should be able to obtain it at the fair market value, at the value which the willing purchaser would pay to the willing seller, without any addition for compulsory sale."

Mr. Chamberlain would go a step further:—

"I would revise the taxation upon land. I would equalise the death-duties. To that extent, at all events, I would invade the sanctity of landed property, and tax all unoccupied and sporting land at its full value. And I believe that that would put an end to much of the abuse, in many respects, of which we now complain; and lastly, I would insist upon the restitution of the property of the community where it has been wrongfully appropriated. I would insist upon the restitution of the endowments which have been diverted to improper uses, of enclosures which have been illegally made, of rights which have been improperly disregarded and ignored; and I would render it impossible for a man to plead the long enjoyment of profits as a ground for immunity from redress by those who had suffered. I do not pretend that this constitutes an exhaustive programme: it is, perhaps, enough for to-night. If objection is taken to it in any quarter, I ask my opponents what are their proposals? If they have an alternative which is more effective than the suggestions I have made, I will gladly accept it; but something must be done."

After having addressed, on Thursday morning, the members of the Hull Radical Club, and subsequently the seafaring men of the port, Mr. Chamberlain was entertained in the evening at a banquet by the United Liberal Club, Mr. Wilson, M.P., presiding. In replying to the toast of his health, Mr. Chamberlain said it was impossible for the Liberal party to be united upon all subjects, but there was a necessity for unity as far as possible in view of the election. The Tories had tried to foment differences amongst them, but he did not think they would find any Liberal leader to join the menagerie on the Treasury Bench. Whigs and Radicals had, however, joined hitherto, and by mutual concessions had worked together, but the Whigs had walked the quarter-deck whilst the Radicals had slaved in the stokehole; and if legislation were too much retarded it might be found that there was not room enough for all the Liberal party. The Tory party were bidding for support on all sides. They were loud and blatant in Opposition, and now they were following just the policy of their predecessors, although their leader was not subjected to the unseemly interruptions and brutal discourtesy with which Mr. Gladstone was assailed. He hoped all Liberals would unite at the general election and prevent a continuance of the present Government, which would lead to disaster.

THE ADMIRALTY ACCOUNTS.

The report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report upon the circumstances under which the expenditure and liabilities incurred by the Admiralty under the recent Vote of Credit have exceeded the revised estimate stated to the House of Commons by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 5th of June, has been published. They trace the progress of the making-up of the estimates, with a running commentary of criticism. After stating in brief outline the circumstances under which the Vote of Credit was agreed on, they comment upon the part taken by Lord Northbrook and by the Parliamentary Secretary in respect of that vote:—

"Lord Northbrook in his evidence stated that he did not hold Sir Thomas Brassey responsible for the finance of the vote. Asked whether, under the present Orders of Council, the Parliamentry Secretary was not responsible to the First Lord of the Admiralty for the finances of the Department, Lord Northbrook replied, 'Generally he was, but not about the vote of credit.' Lord Northbrook gave the Committee the impression that, having kept several matters connected with the vote of credit entirely in his own hands, he absolved Sir Thomas Brassey from any duty with reference to the controlling or the examination of the financial liabilities incurred under it. Sir Thomas Brassey took the view that, in consequence of a verbal understanding that Lord Northbrook had taken the management of the vote himself, he was relieved of the special duty of making himself responsible in any way for the correct statement of expenditure and liabilities incurred. When the weekly statements sent in under the instructions given showed an excess of £66,000, Sir Thomas Brassey drew the First Lord's attention to the point, but did not take any steps to inquire as to how the weekly statement was made up, or to what extent it conveyed all the information which could be given. The transport operations in which the excess of the expenditure ultimately occurred, Sir Thomas Brassey considered, in consequence both of what had passed between him and Lord Northbrook, and of the decisions under this head being entirely dependent on political considerations, as specially in Lord Northbrook's hands. Your Committee do not think that Sir Thomas Brassey can, under the circumstances, be held responsible for not mastering the financial position of the vote of credit; but they do not see that he was precluded by the fact of Lord Northbrook's special intervention in this business, or by the fact that, in the extraordinary circumstances, it was held to be expedient not to filter the orders of the First Lord through the Parliamentary Secretary, from following up all the transactions which had actually taken place, and pressing from time to time for the grounds on which the weekly statements of the progress of the liabilities and expenditure were made up."

A wrong impression appears to have been conveyed by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's reference to the excess of liabilities on the 4th of June.

"The present Chancellor of the Exchequer said, in his speech of the 9th of July, 'The grave fact which I have to bring before the Committee is that we have now discovered that the estimate of £2,800,000 presented to the late Government at the time I have stated did not include all the liabilities which had been then incurred. So far as I have yet ascertained, the error was no less than £500,000.' The evidence of Lord Northbrook and Mr. Childers shows that this statement conveys a wrong impression. An excess not far from this sum existed on the 4th of June, but the major part of it was not omitted in 'error.' It was omitted on the ground that if peace were assured there would to a large extent have been compensating credits and savings. It should be observed that the Admiralty calculations of being able to avoid an excess had rather been based on peace being at once assured than on the cessation of further preparations. They were based on the assumption of the arrangements already made being partly broken up, assets being realised, and part of the preparations made being cancelled. This assumption was not realised at the time, nor has it been realised since."

On the change of Government "a long interval followed, during which the state of suspense as regards the necessity of being prepared for war continued." Lord Northbrook would not cancel preparations lest he should hamper his successor; and "the new Board of Admiralty were unable to act until quite the end of June." Meantime, expenses were running on briskly. Detailed calculations were also made, with the result of disclosing increased liabilities.

"Looking back to the situation, with the knowledge now available, it appears that Lord Northbrook's calculations were somewhat sanguine. To realise some of the economies he had in view not a day was to be lost in breaking up the preparations, and the possibility of any continuance of these preparations was not taken into account. How far there was a justification for leaving this contingency out of account is beyond the scope of the inquiry of your Committee, being dependent upon political facts and considerations with which they are not acquainted. Your Committee are unable to fix any figure at which the economies and credits contemplated by Lord Northbrook should be set down. Lord Northbrook and the present Board are at issue upon the possibility of the satisfactory realisation of an important asset, and nothing but actual experience could have shown what savings could have been effected in respect of ships. There are no minutes in the Admiralty bearing on the point, Lord Northbrook having kept the matter very much in his own hands. A more vigorous inquiry into possible and probable liabilities before the 4th of June would, in the judgment of your Committee, have revealed the necessity for asking for a larger sum than £2,800,000, though possibly not to a very large extent. The Indian Government was not pressed for any statement of the expenditure incurred, and an inquiry into the extent to which cruisers had been manned with owners' crews would have shown the necessity for taking a larger sum in respect of them."

The Committee admit that the Assistant Director of Transports was in a position of very great difficulty in framing any estimate, as from first to last it was undecided how long the troops might be kept in Egypt, and to what destination they might have to be carried; and in view of this his calculations were not so very far wrong. But they consider that a statement ought to have been drawn up of liabilities actually incurred from time to time, and that the system which Mr. Baughan avowedly followed of keeping the calculations as to the probable expenditure in his own head cannot for one moment be admitted as sound. The Committee also make allowance for extraordinary pressure on his department; "but the entire absence of financial control which the evidence discloses cannot under any circumstances be justified."

The general conclusion is this:—

"In the opinion of your Committee the evidence before them proves the necessity of a much severer financial control even when operations have to be conducted directly by the First Lord, without passing through the other Departments in the usual form; indeed, that is all the more necessary in the case of extraordinary expenditure. Your Committee have already stated that the reference to them is limited, and that they were prevented, both by this fact and by time, from any exhaustive examination of the general financial control at the Admiralty; but the evidence taken by them clearly shows that the arrangements in this respect require reform irrespective of the special case which has been under consideration. The position of the Accountant-General does not enable him to exercise any sufficient general supervision of expenditure, while there is no other permanent high official specially charged with finance. While your Committee do not feel competent, on the evidence before them, to suggest the appointment of such an official, or the enlargement of the functions of the Accountant-General, or to make any other specific recommendations, they feel it incumbent upon them to draw the attention of the House urgently to the subject."

STATE BOOK-KEEPING.

The second report of the Committee of Public Accounts, which has been lately presented to the House of Commons, will suggest the inquiry whether the investigations now going on with regard to finance at the Admiralty might not with advantage be applied to some other departments of the national service. The importance of correct book-keeping to the successful conduct of business is admitted on all hands, but there is considerable reason to fear that it is not appreciated as it should be in some, at least, of our public offices. The committee of this year, which includes some of the ablest financiers and men of business in Parliament, has evidently been doing its work very thoroughly, and the result is that a good many faults are pointed out which it is hoped will be corrected in future. Departmental objections will no doubt (remarks the *Globe*) be made to some of the observations in the report. It may be plausibly alleged with regard to a few that they are hypercritical. But it is the business of a committee such as this to be severe in its requisitions. Its duty is analogous to that of a public accountant called in to examine the books of a trading firm. The accountant who understands his business insists upon absolute clearness in the figures placed before him. He will take nothing for granted, and will dispense with proof only when it has been demonstrated to him that proof is impossible. It is in such a spirit as this that the national accounts should be overhauled, and if in some cases the committee appear to be unduly exigent, the reply is that it is better to err on the side of over-stringency than in the direction of too great laxity.

It may be said at once that no great scandal has been dragged to light. There has been no wholesale malversation of public money, nor have the committee come upon any very flagrant piece of negligence. We cannot, however, but concur in most of their animadversions upon what seem to be weak points, regarded from the standpoint of a man of business. It seems a pity, for example, that the expenditure on the parcel post should be so inextricably involved with that upon the letter post that no accurate statement of profit or loss can be made out. This may be impossible, or at any rate, as the Post Office allege, only possible at a cost exceeding its value; but, even so, it is to be regretted, and we agree with the committee in thinking that it should be further considered. It is, perhaps, of less importance that the sales of post-cards, envelopes, and book-post wrappers are lumped together under the head of "Stamps sold to the public," so that the amount of net gain to the office is not made clear. Even this, however, should be remedied, if the remedy is not too disproportionate in its cost to the result desired. It is a small matter to which attention is called under the head of "Science and Art Department," where a sum of £1 12s. 3d., paid in error on the Tyndall Prize Fund, has been charged on the vote. But (as the committee properly observe) strict accuracy in public expenditure is important in small sums as well as in large. It is not alleged that accounts are cooked, but it is not, to say the least, a business-like way of getting out of difficulty, which has been resorted to in the case of a pensioner at Sydney, to whom about £100 was paid in error. This amount, being admitted to be irrecoverable, should have been written off as a loss, but instead of doing so, those responsible for the books got rid of the error by antedating the period at which the pension became payable. Some irregularities are noted under the "Army Appropriations Account" in the payments to volunteers. It appears that the number of officers and non-commissioned officers for whom the grant is claimed exceeds the estimate. This is explained, on inquiry, by the statement that a variable number of supernumeraries are allowed. The explanation is accepted by the committee, but they suggest that a note might be added to the estimate stating that supernumeraries are allowed under certain regulations. A more serious cause of complaint is afforded by the fact that payments have been made to the University Corps of Volunteers with the sanction of the Treasury, though the conditions of efficiency have not been complied with. The public will concur with the committee in thinking it desirable that in all cases the conditions should be strictly insisted upon. It appears that in certain special missions charged under the vote for diplomatic services the accounts have not been properly kept, and it is suggested that in future a financial officer should be attached to such missions, with a view to greater economy and regularity in the expenditure of the public money. At Cyprus there have been "serious irregularities" with regard to the collection of revenue, and the establishment of a more efficient local audit is promised. The fire which occurred some time ago at Hampton Court, and occasioned a loss of nearly £4,000, brings out the fact, which will be new to many people, that it is not the custom to insure Government buildings. It is alleged that, according to experience, no economy would be effected by a change in the practice, but it is at any rate clear that if Hampton Court had been insured the State would have escaped the loss which has fallen upon it. The committee do not recommend any alteration of the custom with regard to the insurance of public buildings, but they think that there is no adequate guarantee for the safety of the articles of furniture they may contain, and that destruction by fire is not the only danger to be guarded against. No inventories are kept of office furniture, and, though there may be other securities against its dishonest abstraction, it is still desirable that the heads of departments should know what they really do possess. Nor does it seem that any great cost need be incurred in obtaining the desideratum.

Two questions which have received special attention from the committee are those which relate to the disposal of Secret Service money, and the pretensions that have been set up by the Education Department to legislate on their own account. With regard to the first, it is obvious that vouchers such as are properly required in the case of ordinary expenditure cannot be insisted upon. The very purpose of the vote would be nullified if those who spend the money were obliged to tell a Parliamentary committee what is done with it. The committee suggest, however, that the Comptroller and Auditor-General may require vouchers such as they could not ask for themselves, holding, as they do, that a proper control should as far as possible be exercised over such expenditure. This can hardly be said to be the case at present. Every year £10,000 is voted by the House of Commons as Secret Service money on a receipt given by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury, but not only is the House kept in ignorance, as it must be, of what is done with it, but there is no guarantee that it is ever expended at all. In the words of the committee, "a surplus, unaccounted for, may be allowed to accumulate, and remain at the absolute disposal of the Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury." There is absolutely no limit to the dimensions to which this hypothetical sum might attain; and the committee make the not unreasonable suggestion that unexpended balances should be annually surrendered, and that a certificate as to actual and proper expenditure should be furnished to the Comptroller and Auditor-General. The committee are warmly to be congratulated on the result of the controversy which has been pending some years with the Education Department. The officials in Whitehall have claimed and exercised the power of interpreting the Code so to override even statute law. This claim they have at length definitely surrendered, and for the future any difference of opinion is to be determined by the Law Officers of the Crown. They agree further that the Comptroller and Auditor-General shall have absolute power to insist upon the production of the documents or other evidence on which the Department claims the right to base any payments. Another important concession is that if at any time the Committee of Public Accounts should be of opinion that payments are being made which are not covered by the Code, those payments shall cease as soon as the Treasury have intimated to the Department that they concur in the committee's view. The net result of the arrangement is the extinction of the most despotic bureaucracy which existed in the public service.

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HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The last Session of the present Parliament is drawing rapidly to its close, and in a few days' time, to the general satisfaction, the existing House of Commons will separate, never, happily, to be called together again. The work of the Session might already have been wound up if it were not for the somewhat unnecessary anxiety of the Government to pass into law some three or four measures of legislation of dubious expediency. The Bill for providing a Secretary of State for Scotland, the Irish Land Purchase Bill and the Housing of the Working Classes Bill, are measures that might very well be relegated for further consideration. As it is at least questionable whether they will effect any good results, and not improbable that they will have some injurious consequences, there appears to be no particular advantage in hurrying them into law. The Criminal Law Amendment Bill is practically passed. It is to be regretted that the subject has been dealt with in a spirit of sentimental panic induced by filthy libels on the morality of the English people. The statements on foreign affairs that have been made in Parliament during the week have been of significant interest. Lord SALISBURY indicated the present position of the negotiations with Russia in a few carefully-weighed sentences. The negotiations have in effect come to a standstill. Russia is not prepared at the present time to enter into any kind of agreement or arrangement, and is in fact waiting to see whether the English General Election will confirm the present Ministers in their places, or bring back a Radical Government that may be found amenable to Russian intrigue. On the problems that press for solution in South Africa, with regard to the future of Bechuanaland and Zululand, it has been intimated that a final decision has not yet been arrived at. There can be little question, however, as to what the decision must be. It is clearly imperative that the Imperial Government should make itself directly responsible for the welfare of the native populations in South Africa that have been recently brought, or are likely to come, under the rule of the British Crown. With regard to Egyptian affairs, the complete success of the new loan is a legitimate cause of congratulation to the Conservative Government. Sir H. DRUMMOND WOLFF is about to proceed on his Egyptian mission, and for the present no fresh developments of Egyptian policy are to be looked for.

Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL introduced the Indian Budget on Thursday night in a weighty and well-considered speech. The finances of the Indian Empire, like those of Great Britain, have been wholly disarranged by the sudden and tardy recognition by the late Ministry of the necessity for taking measures of military precaution against the dangers of Russian aggression. An additional expenditure of £3,780,000 was incurred by the Indian Government in the steps taken to provide against the outbreak of a war with Russia. The menacing position that Russia has now taken up on the Afghan frontier will involve, however, a far heavier outlay in the future, and will result in the immediate addition of two millions to the annual expenditure. The native Indian army will be permanently increased, and will be armed with Martini-Henry rifles, and an increased force of British troops will be maintained henceforward in India. Railways will have to be extended, fortifications made, coast defences organised, and the Indian Empire be rendered practically impregnable. It was natural that Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL should criticise in his most vigorous fashion the torpor and inaction of Lord RIPON'S administration, and the utter want of foresight by which it was characterised. Instead of taking timely precautions to meet a danger that was obvious to the whole world, a policy of absolute supineness was deliberately pursued. The defence of Lord RIPON by his colleagues was incumbent upon them. Their real opinion is shown by the fact that he was superseded by Lord DUFFERIN. It is satisfactory to learn from Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL that the present Government is fully determined to leave nothing undone that will secure the safety of our Indian dominions.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is determined to own the reputation of the FAGIN of contemporary politics, and is busily employed in founding a school of political thieves. Plunder is the policy of the future which he boldly and deliberately advocates. The first of the speeches that he has delivered at Hull this week points out some of the methods by which he proposes to give effect to the doctrines of "ransom" which he recently enunciated. It is a strange sign of the debased political morality of the present day that a speech of the kind, with its cynical contempt for conventional honesty, delivered by one who has been a Cabinet Minister, and hopes to be again, should pass with but faint protest and no expression of surprise. It is no longer possible to regard Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S views as visionary. If the ensuing General Election gives a majority to militant Radicalism, a determined effort will be made to give immediate legislative effect to them. Free education has a foremost place in Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S programme. The land is to be "freed" by the Irish process of giving the landlords' property to the tenants and establishing the *régime* of fair rents, free sale, and fixity of tenure on this side of St. George's Channel. Vast schemes for settling the condition of the poor at the expense of the rich are shadowed forth; and a huge system for the plunder of the propertied classes by means of taxation as well as by the simple and direct methods of confiscation is indicated. A year or two ago it was the fashion to ridicule the idea that views of this kind were likely to be in favour with the sober and sensible masses of the English electorate. This optimistic impression is not altogether so widely held at present. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is clearly of opinion that in the English politics of the early future there will be no antiquated prejudices against the robbery of one class of the community for the benefit of another. What has been done in Ireland is certain to be attempted in England, and when once elementary conceptions of honesty and morality are discarded in legislation, progress is apt to be very rapid towards the realisation of those pleasant ideals of universal plunder which Mr. CHAMBERLAIN in his generous philanthropy sets forth.

It is pleasant to turn from the Radicalism of the new to the Radicalism of the old school—from the profligate opinions of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN to the sturdy honesty of Mr. FORSTER. Whether one agrees or disagrees with Mr. FORSTER'S views, it is impossible not to recognise the resolute independence with which they are maintained and the fervour of the convictions from which they spring. Mr. FORSTER does not adopt his political principles with a view to winning popular applause, and has a healthy disregard of the anxiety shown by the supporters of Radicalism to stifle every manifestation of individual opinion. Mr. FORSTER, if he fails to secure the approval of the Caucus, has at least won the confidence of his countrymen, which he will probably regard as not the least valuable of the rewards of a political career. In the speech which he has delivered at Bradford, as a farewell to the constituency which he will soon cease to represent as a whole, he has effectively vindicated the course which he has pursued in public affairs. When Mr. FORSTER has differed from the Radical Government, only the most bigoted of partisans will refuse to recognise that he was invariably in the right. His eloquent protest against the new-fangled theories that would make a Member of Parliament a delegate of a majority, instead of the representative of a constituency, is one that the electors will do well to take into serious consideration in view of the coming conflict of parties.

FOREIGN POLICY.

Although, as Lord SALISBURY has himself said, it is highly undesirable that there should be any violent breach in the continuity of our national policy abroad on the accession to power of a new Government, and although the action of the present Ministry is most seriously hampered by the engagements entered into by their predecessors, yet it is already apparent that a great improvement has taken place in our foreign relations under Lord SALISBURY'S management. It is a vast gain to everybody concerned that we at last have a Government that knows its own mind about foreign affairs. At home it is a relief to the country to be able to obtain from Ministers plain answers to plain questions, instead of the evasions and prevarications to which we have so long been accustomed. The country appreciates all the more highly the honest dealing, straightforward policy, and lucid statements of the Conservative Ministry, after the Radical shuffling and shiftiness of the last five years. Abroad, the Continental press is nearly unanimous in congratulating Lord SALISBURY on the clearness and definiteness of his declarations of foreign policy, and the collection of Egyptian Papers just issued abundantly illustrates the friendly spirit with which the SALISBURY Cabinet is generally regarded by the European Powers, and the willingness with which they have co-operated with the British Government in terminating the financial deadlock in Egypt. Into the merits of the arrangement under which the other Powers are associated with England in guaranteeing the new Egyptian Loan it would be superfluous to enter afresh. It is an inheritance from the Radical Government of which Lord SALISBURY finds it impossible to be rid. Yet it is no small achievement, after only a few weeks' tenure of office, to have successfully launched the Egyptian Loan. The skill and promptitude of Lord SALISBURY'S action are evident in the diplomatic correspondence just published, and have justly earned for him the warm approval of public opinion on the Continent. Nor is it with reference to Egypt alone that this improved aspect of our affairs abroad is of importance. The renewal of a cordial feeling between England and the Central Powers of Europe, and the re-establishment of our old friendly relations with the Porte, possess a significance which, we may be sure, will not be lost upon the Governments of either France or Russia.

The Egyptian policy propounded by Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH is based upon a manly

and statesmanlike view of the situation. Nothing could be more untrue than the criticism of certain Radical speakers and writers to the effect that Ministers have in office abandoned the attitude they adopted in Opposition. This is a matter upon which we may perhaps be permitted to cite the testimony of our own columns. There is not a single leading point in the Ministerial programme relating to Egypt, as it was enunciated in the House of Commons on Wednesday by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, which has not again and again been indicated by the *John Bull* as embodying the views of the responsible Leaders of the Tory party while in Opposition. The Conservative policy is based, on the one hand, upon a recognition of the obligations imposed upon Great Britain by European Treaties, and, on the other, upon a determination to uphold the paramount claims of British interests in Egypt. The Treaty of Paris of 1856, and that of Berlin of 1878, formally and solemnly guaranteed the integrity of the Turkish Empire. For England to violate the rights of the SULTAN in Egypt would be to encourage and virtually to sanction a similar encroachment by Russia in Armenia. The policy pursued by Mr. GLADSTONE'S Government in persistently and outrageously ignoring the Suzerain rights of Turkey in Egypt was a breach of treaty obligations, and, as it has turned out, a fruitful source of failure. It was this, coupled with Radical vacillation and inconsistency, that ultimately provoked against our late Government the hostility of the European Concert. The mission of Sir HENRY DRUMMOND WOLFF, which is often wrongly described as though it were principally a mission to Egypt, is chiefly and above all a mission to the Porte, having for its object the re-establishment of that concord between England and Turkey which ought never to have been severed, and which, when it is restored, there ought to be no serious difficulty in maintaining. As to the other point in the Conservative policy towards Egypt—the firm and uncompromising maintenance of British interests on the Nile—it grows out of, and is, in fact, the complement of the former. It is by cultivating the friendship of Turkey that we shall best be enabled to uphold our own interests in Egypt. We have here again a striking contrast to the course pursued by the late Government. Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues were constantly weakening their own position in Egypt by declaring their intention of shortly quitting the country. Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH, on the other hand, significantly declines to promise anything about the evacuation of Egypt. "I think," he says, "that nothing "can be more fatal to the success of any policy "than to make promises or pledges of that "kind. We have a great task to perform and "duty to do, and we must endeavour to do "that duty to the best of our power. The "only way in which any progress can be made "in this important work is to make it "thoroughly well known to the world that we "intend to remain in Egypt in order to per-"form it, and not to talk about imme-"diate or early evacuation." The British occupation of Egypt will be, in fact, prolonged until the objects which we went there to perform are fulfilled. We shall abstain from setting up a formal Protectorate, out of deference to the Suzerain rights of the Porte, but the duration of our stay in Egypt is practically indeterminate. These, then, are the two points of Conservative policy—the recognition of the rights of Turkey, and the determination not to "scuttle" out of the country. And when Lord HARTINGTON professes "not to "know in what respect the present Govern-"ment has assumed a more definite attitude "than the late Government," it may suffice to remind him that here we have two distinct points in regard to which "a more definite "attitude" has been assumed.

Equally satisfactory with their action in respect to Egypt is the Afghan policy so definitely laid down and luminously expounded by Lord SALISBURY in the House of Lords on Tuesday. While distinctly declaring that the British Government holds Russia to her promise to recognise the Zulficar Pass as part of the AMEER'S dominions, the PRIME MINISTER leaves no room for doubt as to the determination of the Government "to pursue as rapidly "and vigorously as possible" the policy of strengthening our Indian frontier; and the country will receive with the liveliest satisfaction the announcement that "no ephemeral "alteration in the diplomatic situation would "induce us in any degree to relax or alter a "policy which does not depend on the transi-"tory condition of our relations with this or "that Power, but which is absolutely neces-"sary for the security of our Indian Empire, "without reference to what other nations are "doing." There is also an unmistakeable significance in the further declaration that though there is no present intention of occupying any strategical positions within the dominions of the AMEER, it is impossible to say "what might happen under certain con-"tingencies of the future." Here again we have a vigorous and statesmanlike policy, in marked contrast to the wretched purblind optimism of Lord RIPON, so justly denounced by Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL in the able speech with which he introduced the Indian Budget the night before last. Such criticisms as those of Lord RANDOLPH may be "unusual," but they were perfectly justified by the circumstances. It was absolutely necessary to show who is really responsible for the heavy expenditure which has to be met. The late VICEROY is open to Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL'S charge of having neglected to look ahead and make provision for the future. Such negligence in a practically despotic Government, unhampered by the conditions which surround the Executive of a Constitutional system, is simply unpardonable. The Indian Government is exempt from these disadvantages, and the Government of Lord RIPON has therefore no shadow of an excuse for its neglect to provide for the safety of India. Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL brought these considerations home with crushing force in a speech which is, perhaps, the best he has ever delivered. Lord RIPON, he observed, went out to India with a full knowledge of European politics, of the Russian preparations in 1878 for advancing on India, of Russia's gradual extension of her boundaries towards our frontiers; yet the Liberal VICEROY neglected the dictates of common prudence and common sense. It is not only that he evacuated Candahar and abandoned the Quetta railway. In a time of material prosperity and increasing revenue, Lord RIPON most imprudently remitted nearly all indirect taxation, almost abolished the Customs duties, and lowered the salt duty. Meanwhile no provision was made, no foresight was had, for the future. The most insane course was adopted of reducing the Army to 10,000 men below its proper strength. Frontier railways and roads were neglected, and no preparations were made for defending the frontier. Meanwhile Russia was moving nearer and nearer, while Lord RIPON and his advisers "slumbered and slept," until there came the loud and sharp awakening of the seizure of Merv, followed by the substitution, "not a moment too soon," of Lord DUFFERIN for Lord RIPON, and a hasty and hurried attempt to make some amends for past neglect. No wonder now that an enormously wasteful expenditure has to be incurred, and Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL deserves the thanks of the country for the able and effective manner in which he has stated his case, to which, as Mr. EDWARD STANHOPE afterwards pointed out, no effective answer was forthcoming from the Radical side. It is at least a matter for congratulation that we now have a Viceroy of a very different stamp from Lord RIPON—"an adviser," as Mr. STANHOPE said, "so far-sighted, so courageous, and so "prudent" as Lord DUFFERIN.

WHERE ARE THE MIDDLE CLASSES?

It is not so many years ago, as a writer in *Blackwood's Magazine* reminds us, since the Middle Classes in Great Britain used to be held up to admiration as the stronghold of every civic virtue and every domestic excellence, as well as the depository of the national common-sense. "With such a Middle Class," to quote from the article referred to, "as com-"merce had grown and education had "nourished in Great Britain since the "beginning of the century, there could be no "fear for the stability and peace of the "Empire." For a considerable period, and that at a time by no means remote, the British Middle Classes exercised a dominant authority. Their prevailing sentiments on political questions, their demands, their antipathies, were a matter of the utmost interest. Now, however, all this is changed. In the controversies of the present day—in Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S speeches, for instance—we hear much of the rich on the one hand and the poor on the other; but of the great Middle Classes next to nothing. They are scarcely considered as contributing to the voice of public opinion. And this appears none the less remarkable when we consider who the Middle Classes are, their origin, their numbers, and their condition. They are the whole mercantile and commercial community; the tens of thousands of the professional classes; the vast numbers of respectable and well-educated men who conduct the enormous trade of the country; the rich banker and the well-to-do shopkeeper; the independent man living on his savings, and the clerk engaged in business. The British Middle Class forms not only a large proportion of the people, but it is also the section which represents the nation's thought and energy, its enterprise and activity. It might have been expected that such a class would wield, not only a predominant influence on the national affairs, but an influence marked, on the whole, by sound discretion and intelligent common-sense. The men of the Middle Classes are to a certain extent sprung from the old stock of gentlefolk. But by far the larger number are those who have either raised themselves from a lower grade in the social scale, or whose fathers have done so before them. They embody the industry, the vigour, the intelligence, of the working-classes from which they are recruited. It is the Middle Class of Great Britain who hold a great proportion of the national wealth; it is they who hold in their hands the municipal government of the country; it is of members of their body that the House of Commons itself is almost wholly made up; they control the machinery of commerce; they fill the professions. With this important stake in the Empire, and possessing this knowledge of the world's affairs, the Middle Classes might be supposed to be keenly alive to perceive the beginnings of national danger, and to be resolute in correcting the mistakes of Government.

And now what has become of them—the Middle Classes who used to be accounted "the "brain and backbone, the sense and sinew of "the nation"? Once, as the writer in *Blackwood* truly says, they were "practically omni-"potent. Now they are absolutely silent, "speaking not even when they are spoken to—"all nerveless, indifferent, or ashamed, and to "all appearance done for as a political force." They are more numerous than they were thirty years ago, as well as more wealthy and better educated. Not only are the best men of the working-classes still pushing their way up into the ranks of the Middle Class, but the younger sons of the aristocracy have also been dropping into their more active ranks—"going into trade." There must be, one would suppose, as much of sound sense and keen perception in the Middle Class as ever there were. And yet, so the writer in *Blackwood* maintains—and we are reluctantly compelled to agree with him—these tens of thousands of advanced citizens have virtually given up all interference in the conduct of affairs. They have witnessed the abandonment of all the principles upon which they and their forefathers built up the Empire. Not only their pride but their prosperity has suffered under Radical misrule. At home their property is threatened by confiscation. Abroad the danger to the Empire means, as they are well enough aware, danger to trade. Ours is an Empire of trade, and broken Empire means broken trade. Yet the Middle Class, fully capable of understanding the evils of the time and their causes, have been practically mute. It is they who are most likely to suffer; it is they who are best able to make their voices heard in protest. But neither a sense of patriotism nor even the instincts of an enlightened selfishness seem able to rouse them from their lethargy.

What, then, is the reason of this phenomenon? Is it possible to find any explanation of this disastrous apathy other than the well-known fact that whole nations are at times subject to moods of madness? History teaches us that a mania of apathy occasionally seizes a people, with results, it need not be said, of the most fatal character. It is devoutly to be hoped that the awakening from this mood may be effected without some great national disaster. The advent to power of a Conservative Government may perhaps encourage the great Middle Class of Great Britain to exert itself in the great political contest now about to commence, in defence of principles which it is deeply interested to maintain. It is one advantage of a great struggle of this kind that men are compelled to choose their sides. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S vigorous expositions of the Gospel of Hatred ought to open the eyes of the sensible, industrious, frugal men of the Middle Class to the fact that what they have to face is an agitation conducted on the lines of pure Socialism. They must be too intelligent to imagine for a moment that the doctrines of spoliation advocated by the Birmingham demagogue can be limited in their application to the single commodity of land. Socialism menaces all kinds of property; and it is precisely the men of small property who are most affected by these nefarious schemes of plunder. Insecurity of property means depreciation of its value, and that is a result which would far more seriously affect the humble earnings of those who possess little than the larger accumulations of those who possess more. We hope and believe that the Middle Classes will not be found wanting at such a crisis; but it is well that they should realise that it will be their last chance, as Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S inflammatory harangues ought to convince them, and as the article we have been quoting warns them, of averting "a spell of State robbery, the "natural terminus of which is a Civil War."

THE "NEW APOCALYPSE OF EVIL."

It is more than doubtful whether the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which is on the point of being added to the Statute-Book, will fulfil the hopes entertained with regard to it. The House of Commons has pursued a more judicious course in the matter than there was reason to fear would be the case; but there is too much reason to fear that the new law may favour the growth of extortion. We feel very strongly that the age of sixteen is the highest at which it is just or prudent to extend protection to girls; and that is a view which is entirely borne out by the most experienced clergymen, physicians, and others engaged in rescue work. Meanwhile we almost owe our readers an apology for venturing to recur once more to an odious topic which we have already discussed on two former occasions, but which still continues to intrude itself on public attention. The seasonable and sensible letter addressed to the *Times* by Mr. LLEWELLYN DAVIES does but express, as we have the best reasons for believing, the feeling of the vast majority of the clergy upon the subject. Exceptions there are, of course. A minute but blatant group, for the most part composed of young clergymen, whose noise is out of all proportion to their numbers, has felt no scruple in avowing its sympathy with those whom Mr. STAVELEY HILL has severely but justly denounced as "the filthy "editors of filthy newspapers." It would be a great mistake to imagine that any considerable section of the clergy is represented by the self-asserting clique which loses no opportunity of courting notoriety by proclaiming the most sensational opinions on all manner of subjects, from Bradlaughism to the ballet. The vast body of the clergy, like the majority of reasonable and sober-minded men throughout the country, are simply aghast at the absolute licence accorded to the dissemination of this horrible literature, and view with feelings of something more than amazement the line adopted with regard to it by three of the chief Prelates of the Church, as apparently indicating at least a tacit approval of the methods pursued by the men who, for the sake of lucre, have flooded the whole country with their disgusting publications. The clergy will, we believe, endorse the opinion expressed by Mr. LLEWELLYN DAVIES, that "it "is astonishing that religious men of large "experience should feel themselves justified in "setting at naught the traditions of civilisation "and morality and that express maxim of St. "PAUL, 'the things done by them in secret it "'is a shame (αἰσχρὸν) even to speak of.'"

One thing that has struck us very forcibly about the discussion to which this miserable agitation has given rise, is the surprisingly cold-blooded way in which certain persons seem inclined to weigh against each other the disadvantages and the (supposed) advantages resulting from the "new apocalyse of evil." Mr. DAVIES endeavours to account for the attitude assumed by certain of his ecclesiastical superiors by assuming that they "are hoping "that the air will shortly be cleared of this "pestiferous miasma, when the unveiling has "done its work." It may be taken as exceedingly probable that this more or less exactly expresses the view which they entertain. Whether it does or not, it is certainly a view very widely held among persons who, while they deprecate the means employed, think that "on the "whole," good has been done. Stated in plain language, their opinion evidently is, that while, on the one hand, a great deal of mischief has confessedly resulted from the publication of certain nauseous details, yet, on the other, the good achieved exceeds the evil. The doctrine which lies at the root of such reasoning is this—that in order to estimate justly the moral rightness of any action, you must strike a kind of balance between its good effects and its bad effects; and that if you can persuade yourself that "on the whole" the good outweighs the evil, then you may conclude that the action is a righteous one, and to be highly commended. On this we have only to say quite deliberately, that a doctrine more immoral in itself or more disastrous in its consequences it

would be impossible to conceive. We are, for the moment, putting out of sight the relative proportions of the acknowledged evil and the alleged good resulting from the present agitation. For the sake of argument let us concede on the one side all the good that is claimed, and only urge on the other the evil involved in the single case of one poor child inveigled into consenting to an immoral compact in order that a sensational journalist might be able to demonstrate the facility with which such wickedness can be perpetrated. It is obvious, or at least it ought to be, that not all the imagined good wrought by the "exposure" can possibly outweigh, or justify, or even palliate, the infamy of that one deed. Moral results cannot be quantified—they cannot be subjected to weight or measurement. To allow for an instant that the corruption of a single soul can be excused on any pretended plea of doing good, is to maintain a proposition which, on the face of it, outrages the first principles of morality.

In point of fact, however, the pretext of doing good by means of the "exposure" is of the most hollow and miserable character. The good alleged is that a pressure has been brought to bear on Parliament without which the Criminal Law Amendment Bill would never have become law. That is a statement which we entirely disbelieve. So far as the House of Lords is concerned, it has year after year recorded its approval of the measure; and there was every reason to believe that, this Session at all events, the House of Commons would have passed the Bill even if there had been no public agitation on the subject. But even if pressure from outside was needed to make the more democratic assembly fulfil its duty, it cannot too often be insisted upon that this plea affords no justification for the objectionable methods of the agitation, or for employing—to borrow Mr. Thorold Rogers's apt phrase—"the language "of Zola." As to the secret motives which have dictated the institution of this carnival of filth, we seem to be learning a little more. The disclosures in the *St. James's Gazette* as to the part played in at least one case by the officials of the Salvation Army, in conjunction with the purveyors of this horrible literature, are of a most startling character, and demand the fullest investigation. If it should be found that sensational stories have been "got up" by the nefarious means now suggested, it will go hard with those who are posing as the moral instructors of the public. But it did not really need any evidence of this kind to demonstrate the motives that have prompted the "new "apocalypse of evil." Sensible men of all classes are agreed on that point. The desire for pecuniary profit as well as for notoriety has only been whetted by the success of the schemes; and we fear there is no reason to anticipate that the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill into law will witness any diminution in the volume of the foul stream which has deluged the public mind for a whole month past. It is deeply to be regretted that Mr. Staveley Hill was unable to carry his proposal to make the circulation of such matter punishable by a heavy penalty. The free licence now accorded, not only to the original publication complained of, but to a number of others that have followed in its footsteps, opens up a serious prospect for the future. To be consistent, Parliament might as well usher in what has been not inappropriately called "the Augustan age of obscene "literature" by at once repealing Lord Campbell's Act, which is now practically obsolete.

A PALACE OF DELIGHT.

There are probably few novels of recent years which have done so much to bring home to the minds of the West the position of their neighbours in the East as Mr. Walter Besant's *All Sorts and Conditions of Men*. Not even Lord Salisbury's famous article of two years ago on the housing of the poor can be credited with so wide an influence as the simple story in which the gifted writer told what he had seen—how Angela Messenger strove to do what she could to cheer unlovely lives, how gratefully her efforts were welcomed, and how a "Palace of Delight" rose in the region of Stepney-green. All men and all women read and were charmed with the brilliant book; some men only, and few women, read and digested the brilliant article. And now the time has come when one looks for some outcome from Mr. Besant's work, and from the enthusiasm which it generated. One has not far to seek. John Beaumont, a name well known in the East of London, left a sum of money and a scheme for "the intellectual "improvement and rational recreation and "amusement" of his poorer neighbours. The trustees appointed by the Charity Commissioners to administer the trust—gentlemen whose personalities are familiar in connection with every project of practical benevolence, and all connected either by business or by residence with the East-end—have determined that they can best fulfil their testator's wishes, not by frittering their fund away in doles, but by making it the nucleus of a great scheme. They have £12,000. They want in all £100,000. Of this the Drapers' Company have promised £20,000, which will provide technical schools, furnished with all that is necessary for trades of every description, on condition that a similar sum is raised to endow with like completeness the proposed Library and Reading Room. Lord Rosebery gives £2,500, and will have the satisfaction of thinking that the Swimming Baths of the future are due to his munificence. A further £5,000 has been promised. It is now nearly two years since the scheme was made known to the world, and not half the money needed is as yet forthcoming. Will London be content to do no more than this? Has the example of the Drapers' Company no meaning for the other great Companies? Is Lord Rosebery to stand out alone from among those who have princely fortunes?

What is immediately required is a sum of £22,400 for the purchase of the site of the Bancroft Hospital in the Mile-end-road, a site which is between four and five acres in extent, and occupies a central position on the tram lines. Here it is hoped that building may begin next spring. Without pledging ourselves to admiration of the ornate edifice which seems to be at present the *château en Espagne* of the trustees, let us see what may be done in that building, and what that building may do. Time was—we hope it no longer is—when working men of the humbler classes had for their richer neighbours a feeling of resentment which unhappily circumstances in some degree justified. Forty years ago, Kingsley's portraits of Sandy Mackaye and John Crossthwaite were drawn from the life. That in those days, or these either, the simple should learn in their playtime what gentlefolk learn in their working-hours, was and is a wonderful thing. The drudgery undergone by a man of the people who has undertaken to educate himself—to live at once two lives, and each a hard one—"bringing to the self-"imposed task of intellectual improvement a "body and a brain already worn out by a day "of toilsome manual labour," is severe indeed. "Mony's the Greek exercise I've "written in the cowbyres, and mony's the "page o' Virgil, too, I've turned into good "Dawric Scotch to ane that's dead and gone," said Sandy Mackaye as he looked back with a pride that is pardonable on his own hardly-won education. Now foremost among the efforts of the Beaumont Trustees is their effort to make the sweetness and light of education less hard for the East-ender to win. Those who find their way—and if we may trust Miss Messenger's experience they will be many—to the new "Palace of Delight" will find a library and a reading-room in which they can teach themselves, a lecture-hall and a concert-room in which they can be taught, a winter-garden and a recreation-ground in which wearied limbs will rest, a gymnasium and a swimming-bath in which vigorous limbs will assert their strength. Self-improvement, physical and intellectual, will be brought close to the doors of all who choose to avail themselves of the boon. One has only to see the eager way in which the existence of such an institution as the reorganised Polytechnic is welcomed by the working classes of the West-end, in order to realise that, when the Beaumont scheme is given a fair start, it will be equally successful in the East-end. When practical men like Mr. Goschen and Professor Huxley give their moral support, and when philanthropists such as Sir Edmund Currie and Mr. Barnett stand in the forefront of the enterprise, we have a good guarantee of its merits. The Society for the Extension of University Teaching is doing good work amid the two millions who live between the Bank and the River Lea and earn their daily bread by daily wages. Oxford House and Toynbee Hall are doing all that in them lies. Other efforts in the same direction are not wanting. But it is only by means of a great leavening centre in the midst of this teeming population that men will cope with the work that is to be done.

We hear a great deal nowadays of the Premier's Bill for improving the dwellings of the working classes. By next week that Bill will in all probability be entitled to its place in the Statute Book. The effort of which that Bill is the embodiment is the effort to ameliorate the condition of the people from the outside by improved dwellings, sanitary inspectors, and what not. The enterprise of the Beaumont Trustees is one of raising the level of the people from the inside. Men like Professor Huxley believe that if the East-end is given the wherewithal to educate itself, body and mind, it will be the richer, too, with a higher sense of dignity, and more self-respect, and it will then, of its own accord, improve its homes and beautify its waste places. The two movements of reform—from within and from without—must work side by side, on parallel, not on antagonistic lines. It is blindness to the real issue that asks, Why attempt to raise so large a sum for intellectual improvement, and for what may be called the amenities of life, if the poor are still so wanting in comfortable dwellings and the means of subsistence? For it is by this very method of education that the friends of the "Palace of "Delight" that is to be, hope to bring comfort and health into homes where such things have been too long unknown.

Reviews.

THE WATERS OF HERCULES.*

The Waters of Hercules is a novel which has suffered somewhat from the periodical system of publication, and did not produce so profound an impression on its first appearance in a serial form in *Blackwood's Magazine* as it is likely to do now that it has assumed a complete shape. When we so regard it our verdict must be yet more favourable than it has been on the instalments. We are inclined to place it among the very best, if not as *the* very best, of the novels of the year. The two gifted ladies who, under the pseudonym of E. D. Gerard, have already made their mark in *Reata* and in *Beggar My Neighbour*, have achieved another and a yet greater success in *The Waters of Hercules*. We have always felt some surprise that their earlier works should not, as far as we are aware, have been republished in a cheaper and more accessible form than that of the three-volume novel, which has, of necessity, small chance of obtaining a permanent place on the library shelf. If re-issued in a more compact shape, such as that which Canon Kingsley's novels have assumed, they would have found a place in the collection of every lover of fiction. The new venture by the same authors is not inferior in merit; indeed, we are almost inclined to consider it as superior, though, when we remember *Reata* and *Beggar My Neighbour*, this sounds a strong thing to say. But without attempting the invidious task of comparing the authors with themselves, we may safely say that, comparing them with the other novelists of the day, they will hold their place right well. *The Waters of Hercules* is decidedly to be classed among the best of modern novels, and is in our opinion far more likely to live than the great mass of its contemporaries. The scene is laid on the borders of Hungary and Roumania, a region which we know by experience to be very familiar to the writers. An old legend of the days of the Roman occupation is the foundation of the story, and the weird interest which concentrates itself on Gaura Draculei adds much to the effect of the novel. The descriptions of scenery and the local colour are admirable, but it is yet more on the studies of character and on the interest of the story itself that its claims to a high place in contemporary fiction rest. It is hardly possible for the most impassive of readers not to feel a thrill of excitement during the perusal of the third volume, and the scene of Dr. Komer's disappearance is wrought up most powerfully. We must own that we have not often been more enthralled, and it is a rare treat to find so much literary and artistic merit combined with the construction of a plot of so much interest. Good use has been made of the local superstitions, and while our sympathies are aroused on behalf of Gretchen, who has so much more heart and true womanhood than she would have the world believe, we feel that it is on the influence upon her destiny which is exercised by the Graula Draculei even more than on the development of her own character from the heartless winner of the school *prix de logique* into the passionate girl, who recognises in the shambling, awkward, true-hearted German lawyer, when it appears too late to recognise it, the nobility of heart which she has despised, that our attention has been centred. Nor is Gretchen herself the only character of interest. Istvan Tesnay, the selfish, reckless, unscrupulous lord of the valley, who knows not what conscience is, and has so little scruple in sacrificing his rival's life, is an admirable sketch; while the Princess Tvyphosa, poor Gretchen's rival in his very valueless affections, has yet more of novelty about her. Vinceuz himself is perhaps a little more awkward and ungainly than is necessary, but his true nobility of heart covers a multitude of awkwardnesses. It would not be fair, either on writer or reader, to reveal the *dénouement* of the story; but it must suffice to say that the victim which the evil demons of Gaura Draculei exact once in each hundred years is duly sacrificed to them. The novel is one which is not likely soon to fade from the reader's memory, and we must conclude, as we began, by claiming for it a foremost place in the ranks of contemporary fiction. There are some light touches, which admirably relieve the graver interest; and the fashionable young Italian lady, Belita, who utilises her husband as a lay-figure on which to try her dresses, and suffers so much in her attempt to diminish the contrast between her own height and his shortness, is an excellent sketch, as also is Ascelinde, the heroine's mother, with her idealisation of the family seat at Dracakos. The sooner Messrs. Blackwood supply us with a cabinet edition of *The Waters of Hercules*, and also of *Reata* and *Beggar My Neighbour*, the better we shall be pleased.

* *The Waters of Hercules*. By E. D. Gerard. In Three Vols.—Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood and Sons, 1885.

NEW NOVELS.

A gentleman who, on the eve of his marriage with a beautiful young lady, proposes to another young lady also beautiful that she should go off with him is hardly an ideal hero, and Mr. Arthur Beaumont is not likely to excite any warm feeling of interest in the reader's mind. But he has excited such a feeling in both the heroines, one of whom is the young lady whom he marries, and the other the young lady whom he proposes to marry just before his wedding day. His actual wife is very beautiful, very frivolous, and very extravagant, and her involuntary rival is hardly less beautiful, but somewhat more strong-minded. She it is whose *Morning Grey** gives a name to the novel now under consideration. On the whole, she has a lucky escape from becoming the second Mrs. Beaumont, and when she is able to subdue her ill-regulated affection for Arthur, she becomes the happy wife of the rather rough but far more worthy Warrender. There is not very much in the novel, though it is pleasantly written and contains some effective and touching passages. Josephine's small brother, who serves the purpose which small brothers so often serve in novels by dying off in a pathetic manner, plays a prominent part in *Morning Grey*; and some of the most effective passages in the book deal with the youthful victim of the exigencies of the novel-writer. The sister herself also dies off, and leaves Beaumont free to marry Rome St. Just; but, as we have said, she happily escapes such a fate, and having outgrown her youthful passion for the fickle hero, marries the exemplary Warrender, and lives happily ever after; her *Morning Grey*, as is so often the case, breaking into a fine and sunshiny afternoon.

Esther† and *Dr. Grattan*‡ have thus much in common, that each is an American novel, and each is introduced to English readers by Messrs. Bentley. But they are very different in other respects, and we are ungallant enough much to prefer the gentleman's work to the lady's. Not but that there is a good deal of smartness and almost cleverness in *Esther*, but it is accompanied by too obvious a straining after effect and too marked a determination to be smart and clever. The heroine is a young lady of advanced views, who, falling madly in love with a popular preacher, vainly endeavours, for his sake, to become a believer in the Church. But though she honestly does her best to do so, as might have been expected when it is attempted to rear her faith on so flimsy a foundation, she fails, and at the end we leave her having dismissed her clerical lover, with a fair prospect of consoling herself with a professor of more suitable views. The professor in question is a kindly heathen, who really does his best for his clerical rival. A second love story is that of Catherine Brooke, "a Colorado orphan," and Wharton, an artist with a drunken wife and a taste for sham mediævalism. The various personages are cleverly sketched, but we must own that we cannot get up any great interest in them, nor do we think that the author holds the balance quite evenly between the Church and Agnosticism, her sympathies being on the side of the latter, and her representative characters being most obviously coloured by her sympathies. She holds a brief for the Agnostics, and is not more scrupulous in her presentation of the case than the majority of those who hold a brief. *Dr. Grattan* is much pleasanter reading than the other controversial story, and the tone of it is more wholesome. The scene is laid, not in New York, but in a country town in the Western States, rejoicing, as is the fashion of those parts, in a not very appropriate name. Plato was not a lively town, and the Doctor found a decided lack of congenial society in it. For he was a man who would have made his mark in a more cultured circle, and was not only wasted in Plato, but felt that he was wasted. The arrival of a father and daughter, as evidently above the ordinary Platonic level as the Doctor and his own daughter were, was therefore a boon to both, despite the mystery which shrouded the antecedents of Mr. Lamare, causing the gossips of Plato to put forward and accept strange rumours of a very depreciatory character. It was more than insinuated that the new comer had made his fortune as a slave-dealer, and no little countenance was given to this view by Mr. Lamare's own conduct. He is a very curious and very clever psychological study, and when he dies suddenly it falls on Doctor Grattan to vindicate his memory and assume the guardianship of his daughter. But he had come to regard her with a warmer feeling than that of a guardian towards his ward, and though he is deterred for some time by the difference in age, by the fear how his own daughter would welcome a step-mother, and by his still greater fear of being taken for a fortune-hunter all barriers are at last broken down by a perilous adventure in the snow, in which he and Louise

* *Morning Grey*. By "G. M." In Three Vols.—London: Ward and Downey, 1885.

† *Esther*. By Frances Snow Compton. In One Vol.—London: R. Bentley and Son, 1885.

‡ *Dr. Grattan*. By Wm. A. Hammond. In One Vol.—London: R. Bentley and Son, 1885.

find themselves involved. This is described with great vigour and spirit, and the whole book is certainly above the average, though there is, perhaps, to the Cis Atlantic reader, somewhat of a throwing herself at the head of her admirer on the part of each heroine. The literary style of *Dr. Grattan* is on the whole good, certainly better than that of *Esther*. We may, however, perhaps be allowed to protest against such a phrase as that which tells how Dr. Grattan enforced his command on Miss Lamare "by a material "occlusion of her pretty mouth."

The story of *A Rich Man's Relatives*,* which has been told by Mr. or Miss Cleland, as the case may be—we incline, on the whole, to the latter view—does not present the relatives as a rule in a very amiable light. The rich man himself is Gerald Herkimer, who is much vexed by his relatives. Of these, two are whole-sisters, Miss Judith and Miss Susan Herkimer, and one a half-sister, commonly known as "Steadfast May." She is his favourite, and deservedly so; but he is rather annoyed at her refusal to marry his friend Considine, and her preference for Mr. Selby, the organist of the parish church. He accordingly makes a will which, in the event of her marrying Selby, excludes her from the inheritance, but passes it on to her children on attaining twenty-one. In default of such children the property is to go to the children of the nephew Ralph, who is the black sheep of the novel. Indeed, the extent of his blackness is very great. He not only endeavours to make away with Mr. and Mrs. Selby's child, but later on tries to murder the unoffending Considine, whose only crime against him is that, as one of the trustees of Gerald Herkimer's will, he declines to part with the trust-fund before Ralph's son comes of age. By one of those curious coincidences more common in fiction than in real life, the son in question falls in love with the Selbys' daughter, who has not really been made away with, but survives Ralph's nefarious machinations. The Indian squaw whom he has employed to get rid of her is so smitten with the baby charms of her intended victim, that, instead of burying her in the coffin provided for the purpose, she leaves her at a cottage door. The occupant of the cottage, having already six children to provide for, is not inclined to undertake a seventh, and passes the baby on—rather after the fashion of the Hunchback in the *Arabian Nights*—to a pair of maiden ladies living in the same village. These are the Misses Stanley, a delightful pair—though we think Miss Tilly was rather too old to marry Considine—and they bring her up as their own niece. Meanwhile Ralph goes from bad to worse, and a good deal of the book is occupied with his nefarious financial schemes. When these break down, and he finds that the young lady whom he has tried to murder is alive and well and engaged to his own son, and that the scrupulous trustee whom he has tried to murder is also alive and well, there is nothing left for him but to commit suicide. The worst of *A Rich Man's Relatives* being thus disposed of, and Miss Judith having married a young clergyman whom she has nursed through a dangerous illness, nothing remains but for the rightful heiress to live happy ever after with the man of her choice. The best part of the book is to be found in the kindliness of the two Miss Stanleys, and in the graphic sketch of "tobogganing" which is given in the second volume.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

We thought that we knew all Miss Yonge's books, but we are reminded how fallible is critical omniscience by the receipt of *Hermitta's Wish*, of which a sixth edition has been published by Messrs. J. Masters and Co. To those of our readers who are in the same state of ignorance as ourselves, we may cordially recommend such a treat as an hitherto unknown book by the author of *The Heir of Redclyfe*.

Another new edition from the same publishers is that of Mr. Paget's *Tales of the Village Children*. The present re-issue comprises both the first and second series, and this little book is one which may safely be recommended for reading out in the village school, and as a gift or prize book not only for village schoolchildren, but for others of a higher rank who are not less in need of the wholesome lessons which these stories teach so pleasantly.

Mr. James Long, a well-known writer on agricultural subjects—perhaps, better known to most readers as "Merlin" of the *Field*—has published in an attractive-looking volume entitled *British Dairy Farming* (Chapman and Hall, Limited), the result of his studies of a subject which has of late years assumed even more importance than it originally possessed for the British farmer. His object has been, as he himself states, "to produce "a plain and practical handbook composed of facts "and details resulting, as far as possible, from "personal experience, and such as will enable the "farmer to master the primary intricacies of "milk and its various products." We cannot profess to have sufficient practical knowledge to pass an absolute judgment on the success which has attended his attempt; but, as far as it may be permitted to a layman to formulate an opinion on a technical subject, we must express a very favourable opinion of Mr. Long's work. He has not confined himself to the *British Dairy Farming* which gives its title to his book, but has also added chapters on Continental dairies in France, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, and Holland, which will furnish useful topics of comparison, and suggest possible improvements to the British dairy farmer. American "dairying"—we thank thee, Long, for teaching us that word—he has not touched upon, for the somewhat unintelligible reason "that it is not yet identified with "British demands;" but the subjects which he has dealt with are exhaustively treated, and a profusion of illustrations of dairy machinery add to the value of his volume for the professional student.

The moral of *A Rainy June* (J. and R. Maxwell)—if any moral is to be sought in a work with "Ouida's" name on the title-page—would seem to be that it is not well for young English ladies who marry Italian princes to select a dull country place for their honeymoon. When the Prince di San Zenone and Lady Gladys Cowes married after so short an engagement, it was a severe test of their affection for each other to be shut up through a month of rain amid the green shades of Combe Bysset, and the story, though brightly and cleverly told in a series of letters, ends unpleasantly enough with a vision of complications ahead, which are laid to the fault of *A Rainy June*.

A Rich Man's Relatives. By R. Cleland. In Three Vols.—London: F. V. White and Co., 1885.

Correspondence.

THE BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS.

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—I understand that a paragraph has appeared in a London paper called *Truth* to the effect that the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells has gone to Switzerland for five weeks, "that his Lordship's health has rather failed during the last few months, and that he is getting very infirm."

As this statement if not contradicted may cause misapprehension, I hope you will allow me to state through your columns that the above allegations are each and all of them simply untrue.

The Bishop has not gone to Switzerland. He has not gone away for five weeks; and there is no ground whatever for suggesting that his Lordship is in failing health or getting infirm, as anyone in his diocese can testify.

He has merely gone away for his usual summer holiday with his family.

RICHARD HARRIS, Secretary.

Diocesan Registry, Wells, Somerset, July 31.

"DARBY" OR "DARBY?"

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—As an old inhabitant and native of the county of Derby, I must beg leave to take exception to the statement of your reviewer in the notice of Lady C. Howard's *Etiquette*, in your impression of July 25, that the people of Derby pronounce the name of that town exactly as spelt, and not "Darby." There can be no question that nine-tenths of the educated inhabitants of the town and county say "Darby," and not "Derby." Till within recent years the "vulgar" pronunciation, also, was invariably "Darby." The introduction of Board and National schools, the masters and mistresses of which are frequently not natives of the county, has, however, caused the pronunciation "Derby" to gain much ground among those educated in them. Railway porters say "Derby," just as they say "*South*well" for "Suthell," and "Spondon" instead of "Spoondon." Derby was written "Darby," or "Darbye," up to the early part of the last century, and why the spelling was then changed I have been unable to discover.

I am a native of the county, and from early custom I could never bring my lips to pronounce Derby as spelt. The annual Congress of the Royal Archæological Institute is now sitting here. I have attended all the meetings, and have not once heard the name of the place pronounced otherwise than "Darby."

A NATIVE INHABITANT OF DERBYSHIRE.

Derby, Aug. 4, 1885.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

A Prize of One Guinea is given every month for successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The present monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competitions so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 4.

(Fifth Month, Tenth Year.)

1. G arli C
2. A lasc O
3. Z er O
4. E ttric K

Light 2.—See *Kenilworth*.

Solutions have been received from Felix, Magnet, Waddles, Peewit, Hadji, A Casual, Land o' Nod, Senga, Conjecture, Zyx, Paddy, Random Shot, Muddle, Whaup, and Knutsford.

Knutsford.—Your name was accidentally omitted from list of solutions of Acrostic No. 3.

Zyx.—Your pleas for the Ebro cannot be accepted.

March Ties.—Persevere and Todcat have both sent correct solutions, and remain competing.

May Ties.—Hampton Courtier and Ketha have both sent correct solutions, and remain competing. Mac and Pegasus, from whom no solution has been received, fall out of the competition.

June Ties.—L.E.L. and Tim have both sent correct solutions, and remain competing. S.O.F., who has sent an incorrect answer, and Bios, from whom no solution has been received, fall out of the competition.

Do Persevere and Todcat, Hampton Courtier and Ketha, L.E.L. and Tim care to divide the monthly prizes, or prefer to remain competing?

MONTHLY LIST FOR JULY.

1. Thal, Conjecter, The Owl, Red Sea, Roslyn, Myosotis, Cymro, Evelina, Mike, A. J. Oswell, and Cave Lupum.
2. Camensis, Culverin, Asphodel, Noryb, Viz, Magnet, Noremac, G.C.H., Pansy, and Roy.
3. Vertumnus, O.R., Two Countesses, Hadji, M.A.E.B., Etak, Paddy, Beam, Zyx, Iris, Katydid, Whaup, Conjecture, Chelmsford, Waddles, Felix, and Sociable.
4. Land o' Nod, A Casual, Random Shot, Muddle, Senga, Knutsford, and Peewit.

Thus A Casual, Knutsford, Land o' Nod, Muddle, Peewit, Random Shot, and Senga have tied for the July Prize, and remain competing.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 2.

(Sixth Month, Tenth Year.)

Prem.

No favour now. Scattered far and near,
Each to the many or the few is dear.

1.
We may consider him, perchance,
The earliest hero of romance.

2.
Instrument that is the same
Even when called by another name.

3.
Add but a letter and then you will find
What everyone seeks and all must find.

4.
From her mortal life she passed to be
Immortal goddess of the sea.

5.
Queen of the earth, at whose old shrine
Men were wont to render honours divine.

6.
The Russian invests the tumbler's name
With sudden geographic fame.

7.
In the Low Countries a little town,
Of not much fortune or renown.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL ON THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Lord R. Churchill in the course of his speech in the House of Commons on Thursday on Indian finance said:—

A vast responsibility rests upon those concerned with the affairs of India to interest public opinion and to bring home to the minds of the electors the real nature, character, and responsibilities of our Indian Viceroyalty. I wish to lay down in the first place that the greatest, the most unpardonable crime of which the Governor-General of India can be guilty is not to look ahead and make provision for the future. The Government of England cannot from its very nature look ahead. The Government of England has to think, in shaping its policy, of the state of Europe, of the colonies, and of Ireland, of the state of parties in England, and last, not least, of the state of business in the House of Commons. The Government of India is exempt from all these advantages. It is a Government in its nature purely despotic. We do our best to supply India from time to time with statesmen who shall exercise this tremendous power of government, but who shall at the same time be wise, experienced, moral, and courageous. In India you have no public opinion to speak of, you have no powerful Press, and hardly any trammels upon the Government of any sort or kind. For that reason I say that if the Governor-General of India does not look ahead and provide for the future, he commits not only a blunder, but is guilty of a crime. Lord Ripon knew of all the events which had led to the Treaty of San Stefano and the Congress of Berlin, and which necessitated the great preparations of Russia for advancing on India. He must have had very great knowledge of the gradual but sure extension of the Russian Empire. I do not say there was any necessity why Lord Ripon should have been nervous, excited, fussy, or quarrelsome; nothing of the sort. But I ask whether the commonest prudence, the most ordinary common sense, would not have dictated that all those great historic facts should have been borne in mind, and should have influenced the whole of the acts and guided the policy of his Indian Government. Well, Sir, I say nothing of the abandonment of Candahar. I say not much about the destruction of the Quetta railway. I come rather to the acts of Lord Ripon's Government which seriously affected the finances of this year. Lord Ripon had prosperous times to deal with and an increasing revenue. All indirect taxation of any value was remitted, the Customs duties were almost totally abolished, and the salt duty was lowered for a time. No provision was made, no foresight had, for the future. In 1882-3 the British army was allowed to fall 10,000 men below its proper strength. To bring it up to its full strength, to which it has now nearly attained, has cost the Indian Government £100,000. No frontier railways were commenced; no roads were begun; no preparations of any sort or kind were made for the defence of that long and difficult frontier. Surely in prosperous times a wise man would have provided for the event of a rainy day. But in all these matters Lord Ripon slept, "lulled by the languor of the land of the lotus." Yet there was much which I think ought to have warned and to have roused him in those times. All the time the clouds grew bigger, the distant darkness nearer and blacker, and the great military Power loomed more large and more distinct upon your borders. Lord Ripon and his counsellors slumbered and slept. Then there came a sharp and loud awakening. Russia's hosts absorbed the territory of Merv. Then followed the fruitless frontier negotiations, and Lord Ripon came home and Lord Dufferin went out, not one hour too soon for the safety of India and the tranquillity of our Indian Empire. I declare that I endeavoured to contemplate the action of the late Government of India without any party passion at all. I found in it not one redeeming feature: it was so clumsily, so stupidly handled that progress has been thrown back almost for a generation. I disown and repudiate on behalf of the present Government all responsibility of any sort or kind for that policy, and I hold up that Viceroyalty and the Government responsible for it and the Government which adopted it to the censure and the condemnation of the British and Indian peoples. . . . . In conclusion, I will express an earnest hope that the new Parliament which is to be elected by the new constituencies may manifest a more eager and a more sustained interest in Indian affairs than has hitherto been manifested by Parliament. This Parliament has done little or nothing for India. It would appear as if members of Parliament of the present generation considered Indian affairs to be either beneath their attention or above their comprehension, and India is apparently left to pursue its destiny alone, and some might even think uncared for, as far as Parliament is concerned. That was not always the case. In the last century, when our Indian Empire was forming, the greatest men—Mr. Pitt, Mr. Burke, Mr. Fox—did not disdain to apply their minds to the most careful examination and exposition of the most difficult and complicated Indian questions, and with great advantage. I do think that at the present time, when everything around is changing so fast, and when nothing seems secure or firm, or free from assault and danger, as far as India is concerned, we shall act wisely if we revert to the more patriotic practice of earlier days. I would ask those who have been so kind as to listen to me, and those who possibly may not have agreed in many remarks I have made, to agree with me in this—to join with me in what I would call an appeal, or even almost a command, to those who will be our successors—some faint echo of that appeal may possibly linger around these walls, and influence the new Parliament, so shortly to meet here—I would ask those who hear me to join me in an appeal to the members of the new Parliament to shake themselves free from the lassitude, the carelessness, the apathy which have too long characterised the attitude of Parliament towards India. I would appeal to them to watch with the most sedulous attention, to develope with the most anxious care, to guard with the most united and undying resolution, the land and the people of Hindostan, that most truly bright and precious gem in the Crown of the Queen, the possession of which more than that of all your colonial dominions has raised in power, in resource, in wealth, and in authority this small island of ours far above the level of the majority of nations and of States, and has placed it on an equality with, or, perhaps, even in a position of superiority over, every other Empire of ancient or of modern times.

THE CRADLE OF HELLENIC ART AT NAUKRATIS.

A writer in the *Times* says it may now be taken as proved that Nebireh is Naukratis, and that Mr. W. M. Flinders Petrie has achieved for himself and for the Egypt Exploration Fund the honour of a discovery of the highest importance and interest. The greater part of the Nebireh mound has been trenched, cleared, and explored by Mr. Petrie. In the very first week of his arrival at Nebireh he found, in the courtyard of a farmhouse close beside the mound, a large fragment of inscribed stone, recording certain honours conferred by the city of Naukratis upon one Heliodorus, a deserving citizen, who was a priest of Athena. Mr. Petrie hesitated to attach too much weight to the evidence of a tablet which might possibly, though not probably, have been brought from some other locality. Since then, however, besides innumerable objects of purely Greek art—statuettes, terra-cotta figures, painted vases, votive offerings inscribed to various Greek deities, and a great store of fragmentary Greek inscriptions—he has found the sites and ruins, with their sacred enclosures, of two temples dedicated to Apollo. The earlier structure was built of limestone, and, to judge by the style of columns and cornice, dates from about B.C. 700 to B.C. 600. The later (*circa* B.C. 400) was of white marble, and exquisitely decorated. Close outside the temenos-wall of one of these temples, Mr. Petrie came upon a great deposit of magnificent libation bowls, accidentally broken in the service of the temple and thrown out as useless. Most of them are inscribed with votive dedications by pious Milesians, Teans, and others. A similar bowl dedicated to Hera, another to Zeus, and a great many to Aphrodite, have also been found; but the sites of the temples of these deities have not yet been identified. When it is remembered how Herodotus expressly states that the Greeks, at all events before the reign of Ahmes II. (Amasis), B.C. 560, were allowed to settle nowhere in Egypt save at Naukratis; and when it is also remembered that, besides the great Pan-Hellenic temple, Naukratis contained temples to Apollo, Hera, Athena, and Zeus, the importance of these discoveries as witnesses to the identity of the site needs no emphasising. Nor is there any lack of minor and miscellaneous evidence, as, *inter alia*, a fine inscribed stone commemorating the dedication of a palæstra, or public wrestling school, for the youth of the city; an extraordinary collection of weights, such as might be expected in a great commercial centre; coins of Ægina, Chios, Samos, Athens, etc.; and last, not least, a small copper piece, described by Mr. Petrie as "a third brass; obverse, female head to right, below it NAT; reverse beardless male head to right, below it AAE." The style of the die points to about B.C. 200—that is to say, to the very time when Alexandria and other places revolted during the minority of Ptolemy V.; whence Mr. Petrie concludes that it can be none other than an alliance coin of Naukratis and Alexandria struck by a confederacy of Greek cities. Of the actual city of the Milesian colonists, Mr. Petrie has succeeded in tracing the lines of the ancient streets and the position of the Agora. He has also discovered, under the highest part of the mound, an immense building—immense even in ruin—erected on a kind of platform, and containing a great number of chambers on two levels, the lower chambers having no doorways, and being apparently entered from above, like the store-chambers at Pithom, whereas the chambers on the higher level, none of which communicate with each other, open upon a series of intersecting corridors and passages. This may have been a government granary or treasury, or both; or even some kind of

commercial depôt for the reception of foreign goods. That it dates from the reign of Ptolemy II. is proved by some extremely curious and interesting masonic deposits of a votive character discovered at the four corners of the entrance gateway of the surrounding enclosure.

Naukratis was not only the meeting-place and mart of all the seafaring traders of the Mediterranean basin, but it was also the headquarters of a local trade of the highest importance. Naukratis was a city of potters, and her wares, according to the testimony of Athenæus and others, enjoyed a great reputation. This being so, one is not surprised to learn that the mound of Nebireh is one vast Monte Testaccio—a hill of potsherds, deposited in strata as well defined and as strictly capable of chronological classification as the strata in a geological diagram. Mr. Petrie has trenched through and cleared away these strata, going sometimes to a depth of six feet below the hard mud at the bottom. Each layer has thus in turn rendered up its story, and the story of each layer proves to be a chapter in the history of Greek art. Now, for the first time, every link in the chain which connects the pottery of Greece with the pottery of Egypt is brought to light. That connection is not one of partnership, but of descent. We have long known that the early Greek, when gradually emerging from prehistoric barbarism, must have gone to school to the Delta and Valley of the Nile. The excavation of Naukratis not only confirms this view, but shows us the actual process of teaching on the part of the elder nation and of learning on the part of the younger. To be convinced of this initial fact in the chronicle of Hellenic art it is only necessary (the writer in the *Times* says) to visit the small collection of representative objects lately forwarded from Nebireh by Mr. Petrie, and still on exhibition in the First Bronze Room at the British Museum. We here see grouped together, much as they might erewhile have been seen grouped together for sale or barter in the market-place of Naukratis, such wares as found purchasers among the people of both nationalities thereabout—scarabs, amulets, and fantastic gods in coloured and glazed pottery for Egyptians from the neighbouring villages; figured and painted cups, bowls, and vases, terra-cotta statuettes, and the like for Greek folk of the city, and for exportation to the trading ports of Asia minor and the islands of the Ægean. These alabaster deities of Old Nile, this quaint dwarf in faience, whose native name was Bes, these pectoral ornaments and sacred emblems of the eyes of Horus, might have been sold by dealers from Tema-en-Hor, the "City of Horus" (modern Damanhur), and paid for with yonder archaic silver tetradrachms, then fresh from the Athenian mint.

Through the kindness of the President and Council of the Royal Archæological Institute, Mr. Petrie has been able to arrange at their rooms, Oxford Mansion, Oxford-circus, an exhibition of antiquities discovered by him at Naucratis. Visitors will be admitted on presenting their cards on Saturdays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, from to-day (Saturday), till the close of September, from 10 to 4.

THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE CONGRESS.

Friday was, perhaps, the most generally interesting day of the meeting of the Archæological Institute Congress at Derby, being occupied by a visit to Bakewell and Haddon. Arrived at Bakewell, they proceeded to the parish church, were they were sorry to note that the restoration of some forty years ago had resulted in sacrificing the Norman character of the nave, in the place of which unmeaning pointed arches had been substituted. The interior of the nave, transepts, and chancel had been restored in a sumptuous and costly manner, but not altogether with the happiest results; for although the screen work and the flooring, and the chancel stalls were excellent, the monuments had been sadly displaced. Mr. Beresford-Hope and Mr. Micklethwaite took part in a discussion on this question, and the Baron de Cosson proceeded to make some remarks on the elaborate armour on the recumbent effigy of Sir Thomas de Wendesley, who fell fighting in the Lancastrian cause at Shrewsbury in 1403. This armour was, he said, most accurately and truthfully represented, and could not have been better executed. There was also much to admire in the recumbent effigies of Sir George Vernon, "the King of the Peak," and of Dorothy Vernon and her husband, Sir John Manners. An early monument to one of the Foljambe family was much admired. From Bakewell a short drive brought the party to Haddon, where they lunched, by special permission of the Duke of Rutland, in the great dining hall. The leading features of this baronial mansion have been often described, and still more frequently painted; but they were again recounted by Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Micklethwaite, who acted as guides and interpreters as they passed through the rooms. The chapel, the great kitchen, and the great gallery were inspected, and the party afterwards assembled in Dorothy Vernon's Walk, to see the door by which the heiress of Haddon escaped when she ran off with her lover, John Manners, in disguise. From Haddon the party drove through Youlgreave to Arbour Low, where they were shown a curious circle of huge stones, not unlike those of Stonehenge and Abury, only on a smaller scale. These were explained in a short paper by Dr. Cox, which was read in the author's absence by Mr. Ferguson; and it was agreed after a brief discussion, in which the Rev. H. Scarth, Mr. G. Lambert, and others took part, that the place was probably designed both as a temple and a burial-place. On the return journey the fine parish church of Youlgreave was visited. Here the vicar, the Rev. R. C. Roy, acted as interpreter, and pointed out the most interesting monuments and the very curious font, with its holy water stoup affixed. The Baron de Cosson also offered some remarks on the recumbent figure of one of the Cockayne family in the centre of the chancel. In this he said that the "restorers" had shown a little ignorance of the details of the armour of the time which was intended to be represented, which was the less to be pardoned as they had such fine examples within reach at Norbury and elsewhere. The party then left Youlgreave for Rowsley, where they took tea at the Peacock Inn, and reached Derby in time for the evening meetings of the several sections, in which papers were read by Messrs. Manning, Browne, Hirst, and Skipton. Saturday was less interesting than either Thursday or Friday, being devoted to Dale Abbey, and two or three churches not of the first class of importance. The excursion was entirely by carriages and brakes, and the guide and interpreter was Mr. St. John Hope. The first place visited was the interesting church of Sawley, with its curious Jacobean pulpit and other internal woodwork, the herring-bone masonry of its walls, and its fine effigies. Thence the party drove to Dale Abbey, where the ground plan was explained by Mr. St. John Hope, and the hermitage and curious little parish church were visited. After partaking of a hasty luncheon, the party drove on to Morley Church, which were described by the Rev. Dr. Cox. It is rich in brass and monumental effigies, mostly of members of the Sacheverell family. From Morley they proceeded to Breadsall, where they inspected the church under the guidance of Mr. W. F. Cox, who pointed out its leading features and showed them a curious Pieta, or alabaster figure of the Virgin and Child, which was found recently buried under the chancel floor. The old oak fittings of the church were much admired. The party having partaken of tea, partly at Morley and partly at Breadsall, returned to Derby about seven o'clock. In the evening Mr. Skipton read at the Free Library a paper on "The House of Cavendish."

On Sunday the members of the Institute attended service at All Saints' Church, the Deputy Mayor and the rest of the Corporation being present, when a sermon was preached by the Rev. George F. Browne, Fellow of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge.

On Monday, the archæologists made a long excursion by carriages to Repton and Melbourne. At the former place—once the capital of Saxon Mercia—they inspected the church, under the guidance of the Rev. Dr. Cox, who explained its early history and leading features, including its Saxon crypt under the chancel, which it is intended shortly to restore on the old lines. The party was then taken in charge by Mr. St. John Hope, who showed them over the remains of the once noble abbey, part of which is now utilised as a grammar school. After lunch they drove on to Breedon-on-the-Hill, where the interesting Norman church, with its noble tombs of three or four generations of the Shirley family, was much admired. From Breedon they went on to Melbourne, where there is one of the finest Norman parish churches in the kingdom, very much resembling Durham Cathedral on a very small scale. The manner in which this church has been restored by Sir Gilbert Scott elicited expressions of great satisfaction. The party were hospitably entertained at tea at Melbourne Hall by Mr. W. D. Fane, and then returned to Nottingham in time for dinner. At the evening meeting the Baron de Cosson read a paper on "The Military Effigies in Derbyshire," and Mr. Bent another on "The Islands of the Ægean Sea."

On Tuesday a somewhat extended visit was paid to the Peak country. The day was fine, though it threatened rain, and the journey by Midland Railway to Chapel-le-Frith, and the drive thence to Castleton, was effected without mishap or delay. The fine keep of the ancient castle on the hill, which gives its name to that place, was commented on by Mr. St. John Hope; and after a hasty visit to the parish church, with its Flemish painting and its late Norman chancel arch, the party drove on to Tideswell. Here they were able to inspect a church which is the pride of the Peak district, and has been styled its "Little Cathedral," and to admire the judicious character of its restorations, which have been carried out on strictly conservative lines. Its fine monuments were made the subject of comment by the Baron de Cosson; and the party were entertained at tea at the vicarage by the Rev. S. Andrew. The return journey to Derby was made rather late, but the meeting was held notwithstanding.

On Wednesday the party went again by special train to Hassop, from which they made a long excursion by carriage to Padley Chapel, Hathersage, where they inspected the church and the fine earthworks, the Carl's Wark, and the ancient manor-house of North Lees, returning in the afternoon to Brookfield to partake of the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Brookfield. Arriving at Bakewell they returned to Derby, and at the concluding meeting special votes of thanks were passed to the Mayor and corporation of Derby; to the managers of the public free library, in whose rooms they had held their loan museum and their evening meetings for the reading of papers; to the noblemen, gentlemen, and clergymen who had so kindly thrown open their houses, libraries, galleries, and churches to their inspection; to the members of the local society who had assisted them in their expeditions; and to the Midland Railway, who had placed on four different days special trains at their disposal without extra charge. The meeting then broke up, and the Congress was at an end.

MEN, NOT MEASURES.

When the present Government came into office, an immense feeling of relief was experienced by those Englishmen—and they are more numerous than some people suppose—who had felt real shame and sorrow, almost without a break, at the course of public affairs during the preceding five years. The period in which ignorance, indecision, and cowardice abroad had been matched by an anxious and exclusive study of how votes might best be secured and retained at home was at last over. The change could hardly be for the worse, and it might be for the better to a quite indefinite extent. This feeling being prevalent, there was, if not exactly a period of unrestrained jubilation, at least an interval of cheerful hope for the future. It is much to be feared that the Tories, Conservatives, Whigs, and Moderate Liberals who form the bulk of the Constitutional Party are no longer in that hopeful frame of mind. They have seen, not with indifference, but with disgust, highly-placed officials of the Conservative Ministry attacking Lord Spencer for the magnificent services rendered by him to the United Kingdom and the cause of obedience to just laws, in order to conciliate the avowed enemies of both. They have seen the Government, as a whole, neither afraid nor ashamed to trump an open and flagrant electioneering dodge of their opponents by the simple method of appropriating it as their own. And they have not witnessed these spectacles with approval.

If the Government persevere, now or at any future time, in these courses, it will not be for want of warning as to what they are doing. Their friends can do them no truer service than to remind them of the results which will inevitably follow a disregard of such warnings. What Englishmen who disapprove of the new development of Radicalism want is, not to be governed by any particular set of men, but to be governed in accordance with the principles which they believe to be wise and just. Abroad, they desire the interests of the British Empire to be temperately but firmly promoted, the rightly-acquired advantages of subjects of the Empire to be maintained, if possible, with its whole force, and such claims of foreign nations as are incompatible with British welfare to be unflinchingly resisted. At home, they want the statesmen who happen from time to time to be entrusted with the conduct of affairs to use their powers of judgment to the best of their ability in shaping such measures as they hold to be likely to be beneficial to all classes of the community, and in exposing the defects of such schemes as they consider to be bad in themselves and urged forward only for the purpose of securing to their authors a temporary popularity at the polling-booths. So long as these paramount objects are secured, they care not a rap who are the men who secure them. It was because they were convinced that the continuance in power of Mr. Gladstone made these objects impossible of attainment that the great body of rational Englishmen hailed his fall with tranquil but profound content. It was because they had reason to hope for better things from Lord Salisbury that his advent to power was watched with the calm but genuine pleasure of one who is suddenly relieved from long-continued and absorbing inconvenience.

If these men cannot have their wishes gratified, if a gloomy experience teaches them that both sides equally ignore the interests of the country and concentrate their attention upon the task of keeping their rivals out of place, their interest in politics will cease. They have to pay somebody £5,000 a year for discharging the duties of Prime Minister. If, whoever he is, he discharges them equally badly, it is a matter of profound indifference to those who think politics of more importance than a cricket match whether his name is Gladstone or Cecil. A cricket match is a capital thing in its way. To those who have leisure to look on at it it is a matter of legitimate, and for the moment absorbing, interest whether Grace or Read makes most runs. For the excellent persons who get their living by it the vicissitudes of the game are of more importance still. But the bulk of the public takes practically no interest in it at all. The banker, the barrister, the doctor, the brewer, the stockbroker, and the farmer, with accidental individual exceptions, go about their business just the same as usual on the day when Yorkshire meets Nottinghamshire in the field, and would not give sixpence to be allowed to dictate to Providence the result of every ball bowled in the match. And, frankly, if the result of political contests is to be of no more practical importance than the result of a cricket match, these people will take no more interest in the one than they do in the other. If political affairs were to be conducted substantially to the satisfaction of everybody, the result would probably be very much the same as may be seen in a thoroughly well-ordered town with a municipal constitution, or a club with an efficient and popular committee. Some capable men would get themselves appointed to the various offices, and would stay there. They would do their business and draw their salaries, and no sensible person would trouble his head about them. The same thing will happen if the tone of politics at large is hopelessly bad. The people immediately interested will occupy themselves in a game among themselves at which the best part of the public will not even look on, but will simply give it up in despair as a bad job, and wash their hands of the whole affair. When this happens, it is only natural that the players in the game, who have engaged in it only for the sake either of amusement or of doing the best they can for themselves, seeing that nobody takes any worthy interest in their proceedings, should speedily become as corrupt and disreputable as people earning their living by pursuits no more exalted than gambling for the sake of gain usually are.

The impression that the course of English politics is tending in this direction has undeniably gained ground in the last few weeks. If the Conservatives in office had not thought about possible results on the favour they might find with the electors, but had simply acted on the principles by which they professed to be guided in Opposition, they would unquestionably have secured the support of many and many a person calling himself for general purposes a Liberal, but alive to the hideous errors of the Gladstone Government and keenly anxious to do all in his power to avert the possibility of their recurrence. Will they have that support now? Would they have it if they could dissolve Parliament to-morrow? They will certainly not have it if they persuade Liberals such as these, and many who are not Liberals, that the difference between them and their predecessors is one of personality only, and that they have no more foresight, courage, common sense, and perception of what is right than those whom they have ousted. For their own sake, and for the sake of the political future of England, we urge them to give these topics their fullest consideration before it is too late.—*St. James's Gazette.*

QUESTIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.

In an article entitled "The Conservative Administration" in *Blackwood* for the current month, the following observations occur:—"It is to be remarked that the many Liberal orators who from day to day are endeavouring to keep up the credit of their party, while they make a great clamour about the Franchise Act, are particularly reticent about the wars in which we have been engaged for the last five years, about our foreign policy, and especially about the eleven millions and the consequent heavy taxation. If they imagine that the country, in choosing another House of Commons, will be unmindful of these things, they dangerously deceive themselves. The people cannot, if they would, lay aside all thought of the taxes which daily press upon them; and they assuredly have not forgotten the useless bombardments and wars in Egypt, or the sacrifice of Gordon. They will revert at election time to the poltroonery in South Africa, and to the dishonourable negotiations concerning the Afghan frontier. And they will demand an account of these things. There is some reason for believing that some speakers—thinking, perhaps, of the head-hiding habit of the ostrich—imagine that by shutting their own eyes to these crying accusations, they can render their countrymen blind to them also. One example of real or affected innocence occurred in Mr. Mundella's speech, delivered on the 8th of July at Sheffield. 'The Tories,' he said, 'would borrow money, and leave the Liberals to pay the bill.' Now, this remark almost invited a heavy retort, and we can hardly imagine that the speaker would have made it unless he had lulled himself into a delightful oblivion of the real state of things. For who are they who are paying an enormously heavy bill at this moment? And who incurred the expense? It was hardly wise, as one thinks, to send out a bolt which was so certain to come back with accelerated force on the party for whose behoof it was made. Abuse of the Tories and their wickedness will assuredly not serve the turn of the Liberals at the next election. They have a serious account to render for themselves, and they will not be allowed to shirk it. They must explain how it was that the peace, prosperity, and light burdens which were promised in 1880 proved to be mere moonshine. They must tell, if they can, why Gordon was left to his fate; and what was the meaning of the wholesale slaughters which they inflicted in the Soudan upon people over whom we claimed no sovereignty, and who were not known to be breaking any law or covenant. And they will be called upon to explain the sudden change of strategy which was followed when they abandoned the making of the Souakim railway and withdrew the troops which had been pushed southward with so much labour and expense. It will be demanded of them why they obstinately persisted in leaving the north-western frontier of our Indian Empire undefended, and why, when Russia made her spring upon Afghan territory, English interests and English honour were so shamefully sacrificed. And it is quite possible that when on the hustings they may hear again of the war-fury which was simulated in the House of Commons for the purpose of obtaining a vote of credit. This will form an unpleasant catechism. And there are a vast number of questions demanding consideration of the electors which cannot usefully be put to candidates. The electors must reflect on whether the country could stand the damage which would assuredly come upon us if we were again to commit our foreign relations to hands so incompetent as those of Mr. Gladstone's late Cabinet, and whether we could endure to be again a sort of outcast among the nations. One imminent danger ought alone to deter every patriotic Briton from assisting to bring back Mr. Gladstone to power. We have entered upon a current of events wherein it is essential to us to have Turkey as an ally. Mr. Gladstone has abused and insulted Turkey in a degree which the Turks never can pardon. It is, therefore, necessary to our safety that, while any prospect may remain of a war with Russia, Mr. Gladstone should be debarred from all control of our affairs?"

THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

On this subject the *Spectator* remarks:—"When it is gravely maintained that any change, however temperate and beneficial, should be made at the cost of dispersing in hundreds of thousands details so vile and so corrupting as have been circulated with the view of strengthening the Criminal Law on this subject, we can only say that the moral price paid is immeasurably greater than the advantage gained in return. We regard the line taken as involving a public calamity of the first order—a public calamity so great that no conceivable change in the penal laws of England could in any degree compensate for the mischief done. When we consider that a daily paper passes through the hands of probably a thousand people who can contribute nothing to the legislative changes required for every one who can contribute something, it is obvious that the circulation of facts and statements which miss the only end by which they can effect any good in 999 cases out of 1,000, and, in a large proportion of the cases in which they miss their end, do an enormous amount of mischief, sowing the seeds of the very evil which their publication was intended to prevent, is a calamity of no ordinary kind. No moral indignation can be too great against the diabolical authors of this secret wickedness. But does not every pure mind feel that indignation quite as deeply without these public meetings, which inspire a fearful amount of prurient curiosity, and diffuse an intolerable amount of corrupting thought, to kindle it? The real truth of the matter altogether hinges on this question—Will any change in our penal legislation, however just, however wise, however carefully considered, do enough good to balance the evil of such publications, and of such meetings as have followed these publications? We do not believe it for a moment. It is simply childish to suppose that the young, or even the middle-aged, can hear all these matters discussed, and not suffer, suffer fearfully, from the consequences. Such facts as there were to submit should have been brought before the men who could really intervene with effect in penal legislation, and should never have been offered to the general public at all. Still less should they have been offered to the public mixed up with gaudy and pedantic references to Greek legend, intended to give an air of learning to one of the most loathsome and shocking of all disquisitions. To those who have heard the ghastly laughter, the wicked sneers, the cynical gibes to which these publications have given birth in the streets, in railway carriages, in innumerable scenes and places, to those who have seen modest-looking girls buying and at once secreting these shocking publications, to those who have noted even the unctuousness of some of the protests raised at public meetings against the wickedness asserted or revealed—it seems likely that seeds will have been sown far and wide by this dreadful propaganda which will bear fruit in a great access of impurity first, and vice afterwards. On that class of subjects on which morbid feelings are most contagious, the 'conspiracy of silence' is a duty of the first order, unless where the public needs practical

guidance of the most urgent character as to the proper course of legislation. Let us pass the Criminal Law Amendment Bill by all means, in any form in which statesmen think that it will be most effective and most workable; but let us not flood our minds with sewage in order to cleanse them. If we do, better men may catch a plague which has originated with the worst."

The Rev. J. Llewellyn Davies, writing on the same subject to the *Times*, says:—"Almost every clergyman with whom I have conversed on the subject has deplored and condemned in the strongest manner the free unveiling of things over which it has been hitherto usual to draw a cover of decency. A master of a great public school has spoken to me with emotion of the irreparable mischief being done by this tearing aside of veils. On the other hand, I am afraid it must be admitted that the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London, and even the Bishop of Durham, condone—if they do not applaud—the publication of this new apocalypse of evil, on the ground that some such exposure was necessary, and is likely to lead on the whole to good results. There must be two reasons for this difference. The harm likely to be done by the publication, and the good likely to be done by the agitation, are alike differently estimated. Allowance must be made for women whose brains become heated by the horrors of which they read, and who, familiar as they are making themselves with normal and abnormal vice—have not the comparative knowledge of evil which many men are compelled to acquire. But it is astonishing that religious men of large experience should feel themselves justified in setting at naught the traditions of civilisation and morality and that express maxim of St. Paul, 'the things which are done by them in secret it is a shame (*aiσχρὸν*) even to speak of.' Upon the new principle now advocated it would be right for sermons to be continually full of the most revolting statements, and for newspapers to print all the evidence, medical and other, given in the most nauseous criminal trials. I could add, from my own personal knowledge, some varieties of abominations to those which have been disclosed, but it never occurred to me that it was my duty to set these in detail, with or without a garnish of slang and sentiment, before a promiscuous congregation. The Archbishops and Bishops, I cannot but suppose, are hoping that the air will shortly be cleared of this pestiferous miasma, when the unveiling has done its work. But when will its work have been done? The Act about to be passed will not satisfy the demands which are being menacingly made on members of Parliament and candidates. Already the Archbishop of York is complaining of the lukewarmness of our legislators; and assuredly the passing of the Act will not extinguish the wickedness against which it is aimed."

The Rev. H. N. Oxenham writes that "among the most valuable provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill are the clauses authorising Judges and magistrates to exclude women and children (*i.e.*, all under twenty-one) from court while cases under it are being tried. On such a point one might have supposed there could not be two opinions among decent people, and that any question should be raised upon it is an ominous sign of that growing evil tendency in certain quarters against which 'Lewis Carroll' the other day raised—not at all too soon—a warning voice. It is true, however, though it sounds incredible, that our new moral guides have singled out those very clauses, with some of its other most useful provisions, as 'absolutely necessary' to be eliminated from the Bill. The Government have seen fit to obey the behest of their new moral instructors, and have struck out the clauses from the Bill. Their weakness in the matter is deplorable. One can but hope now that the House of Lords will have the courage of its opinions, and restore the salutary provisions Sir Richard Cross, at the bidding of the *Pall-Mall Gazette*, has eliminated."

SOUTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

DEPUTATION TO COLONEL STANLEY.

A large and influential deputation waited upon Col. Stanley at the Colonial Office on Wednesday to make representations respecting Bechuanaland, and the desirability of establishing a protectorate in Zululand. The deputation was introduced by Mr. W. E. Forster, and there were present a large number of members of Parliament and gentlemen interested in the colonies. Mr. Forster opened the proceedings by presenting the following memorial:—

Sir,—Your memorialists are personally and deeply interested in the affairs of the colony of Natal, having residences or close connection with houses of business there at the present time. Your memorialists have observed with satisfaction that public opinion in this country is strongly in favour of steps being taken to fulfil the responsibility which rests on Her Majesty's Government with regard to the Zulu people and Zululand, and in this respect your memorialists record their general approval of the sentiments and policy publicly expressed by the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., on the 25th of July last. Not only for the sake of the Zulus, but having regard to what may be termed Imperial interests, and especially because of the injury which the present condition of affairs in Zululand entails upon Natal, your memorialists would urge with all the emphasis their personal knowledge of South African affairs can impart that it is the bounden duty of Her Majesty's Government to lose no time in putting an end to the confusion and anarchy in Zululand, and in establishing there a firm and just government.

Mr. Forster went on to say that the deputation which he had the honour to introduce consisted of members of the South African Society and members of the Aborigines' Protection Society, both of which organisations had taken great interest in the affairs of South Africa. As regards Bechuanaland, they first wished to congratulate the late Government and the present Government on the success of Sir Charles Warren in restoring order, and, as they hoped, enabling some justice to be done to those who had been dispossessed of their property and otherwise greatly injured. They ventured to consider that that success had abundantly justified his appointment, and that he had shown remarkable ability, energy, and discretion in the way he had discharged his duties. They were very anxious that the Government should not hastily withdraw such part of the forces as were necessary to keep order in the country. They believed that if the country was left without protection the probability was that the expedition, instead of being a success, would be a great failure, and had better not have been sent out. They learned by the newspapers and by private information that it was probable the Cape Government would wish to take over the district of Bechuanaland and incorporate it with the colony. For reasons which he need not dwell upon he did not think they had any reason to regret that desire, at least at present; but he ought to state that those who had studied the matter were unanimously of opinion that whatever might be the arguments against the Cape Government taking up the matter, there was a strong feeling both at home and in the colony against the government of that country being conducted under the influence of the Cape Government, and without their responsibility. The present High Commissioner was in a very difficult position, and it was almost impossible for him to take any action in any way. Therefore it appeared to him that wherever the English Power was to be responsible for the management or the government of a district that responsibility must be entire. There must be no divided responsibility in the matter. They were all of opinion that, at any rate for some time to come, it would be much more likely to prevent wars and injustice, and secure the interests of the natives, if the Cape Colony was left to as much self-government as any other of our great colonies. It was also thought that the Crown should appoint an officer who should be directly responsible for the management of native affairs. They had reason to hope that if this course was taken and energy displayed it would not be a costly course; and in fact if it had been taken some time ago it would probably have prevented great expenditure as well as injustice. With regard to Basutoland there was great anxiety. He believed that too small a number of police had been put under Colonel Clarke, who had done much good with the force at his command. He believed if Colonel Clarke was withdrawn great evil would result. The country should never have been taken under our direct control if it had not been necessary to do so, and when it was found necessary a sufficient force should have been sent for the purpose and to preserve order. With regard to Zululand they felt very strongly. The matter was one which did not require much discussion, for the facts were unfortunately too clear. Nothing could be more deplorable than the present condition of Zululand, and it was owing very much to the action of England. He was not attributing blame to any one party. It was quite sufficient to take the facts. Unless Zululand was taken under British protection, there would be a continuance of the evils which now existed. The whole country was in a state of misery and anarchy, and the only result which could come from it would be that some other Power would step in, to the disadvantage of England. He thought that the time had come to put Zululand under British control. In conclusion, he would say that they were not actuated by any feeling against the Dutch or any other countrymen, and he believed that they were expressing the feeling of many residents in the colony as well as at home.

Mr. Chesson read a number of letters from public men approving of the objects of the deputation. The Lord Mayor, Sir Henry Bartlett, Mr. Cropper, M.P., and Sir John Hay spoke in support of a British protectorate over Zululand.

Colonel Stanley said he quite recognised that this was a matter which did not belong to any party in particular, and it was in that hope that he asked them to unite their forces to-day. He had little to add to what he had said in his place in Parliament a week ago. In looking to all these great questions he became early conscious that the keynote was the vacillation which there had been in British policy during the last few years. In view of that he asked for time to probe those questions to the root and to find out the real condition of affairs. They had, on taking office, to take matters as they stood, and did not feel themselves at liberty to deal with them as they were personally inclined. He joined with them in praise of Sir Charles Warren. He had to add the strongest testimony to the impartiality, the judgment, and care with which Sir Hercules Robinson had, under circumstances of very great difficulty, discharged the duties of his high position. He could not go very far in announcing the position and policy of Her Majesty's Government. With regard to the northern boundary, he did not find himself in a position to recommend the acceptance of the chief Khaine's offer of allowing a protectorate over his country. Regarding Bechuanaland, he thought such measures were being taken as would ensure the maintenance of peace. A sufficient force of police would be retained there to support law and order. There was a concurrence of opinion that Zululand required the closest attention, and immediate action was necessary. At this moment he was not able to say more than that the question was under the full consideration of the Government.

The deputation then withdrew.

MEXICAN PROSPECTS.

The Mexican Republic has not of late years attracted nearly so much attention as it did at the period when the Jecker Bond business drew the Emperor Napoleon into the enterprise which had so great a share, though indirectly, in bringing about his downfall. But Europe has a yet greater interest in the good government of that rich and interesting country. Of late (says the *St. James's Gazette*), notwithstanding some very unfortunate experiences, large amounts of European and American capital have been invested in Mexico, though the total is trifling compared with what will flow thither as soon as a sound financial position is established and it is understood that the day of *pronunciamientos* has gone by. At present public opinion here, which is almost exclusively guided by financial considerations, does not take a very favourable view of President Diaz or of his Government. But there are some who, while they have every means of forming a right judgment, believe that the President is taking the best possible course to restore confidence in the administration of the Republic, whatever the hand-to-mouth speculators may think of it. However this may be, the increasing importance of Mexico to the world at large may be admitted, whether Mexican bonds are up or down and whether Mexican railway shares are depressed or "booming." Moreover, if the native Government is good the progress of the country can scarcely be checked; while, if it is bad, the intervention, direct or indirect, of the great neighbouring Republic could not be delayed for a very long period.

That the Mexican Republic could succeed even as well as it has succeeded was at one time deemed almost impossible. And, when we remember how its population of ten millions is made up, what has been done is certainly surprising. No less than one-half, or five millions, are full-blooded Mexican Indians; about three millions are half-castes; and only 1,500,000 are reckoned as native Creoles of pure blood. Juarez himself was a full-blooded Indian; and these Indians are said to be showing improved capacity. The city of Mexico contains about 300,000 inhabitants, or about the same number as Melbourne. But the population is altogether out of proportion to the wealth of the country, its extent, its singularly favourable position, climatic and geographical, and the long coast-line it possesses on both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. The Gulf of Mexico has a great command of the trade of Central America and the West Indian Islands. Insecurity of life and property, and the indifference or laziness of a large portion of the population, have kept the country in a very backward state; but, even as it is, Mexico raises not less than £6,000,000 worth of silver alone every year, though the mines have been often very carelessly worked and some good districts have been abandoned. In this direction, however, a change has taken place; and now the danger is that worthless properties will be picked up and thrown upon the American and European markets, and so discourage more genuine enterprise. Railways are being pushed on, both from the coast and from the United States: on the one side from New Mexico and Arizona, and on the other from Texas. The completion of these will of course give a great impetus to mining and also to agriculture. At present the great difficulty is the enormous cost of transporting heavy goods on mule-back, which is the principal mode of conveyance in the more mountainous regions.

But the greatest wealth of Mexico consists in its cattle-ranches. These are very numerous and valuable. And here the commercial outlook blends with political considerations. Disputes and encounters are constantly going on between Mexicans and Americans on the border, in which it cannot be said that the Mexicans are always in the wrong. Americans are now engaged there, misunderstandings nevertheless, in taking up land and developing mines, and the ranches on the border are gradually falling into their hands; cattle being raised and transported to the Californian markets by the Southern Pacific Railroad. The tendency of this can scarcely be overlooked. The four so-called northern provinces of Mexico—Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Nuevo Leon—contain together a population of but 650,000 out of the total 10,000,000, but have 220,000 square miles out of the total 743,804 in all Mexico; and the next two provinces below are almost as sparsely peopled. On these provinces the Americans have fixed their eyes, and an agitation is even now going on in favour of continuing the artichoke process, whereby Mexico has been gradually deprived already of rich and fertile territories. The Americans absorb or purchase: conquest has become unnecessary. But we do not believe that this annexation will come about just yet. Pressed though the Southern Republic may be for money, President Diaz could scarcely sell unless very heavy pressure were brought to bear upon him; and this is not likely to be done yet awhile. Had Blaine been elected President of the United States in place of Cleveland, it is probable that by this time we should have heard a good deal about that "manifest destiny" which is so useful an auxiliary to nations "on the make." But President Cleveland is not an expansionist of the Blaine type; and so the politico-commercial speculators who are at present engaged in picking up tracts of land within the Mexican frontier may have to endure disappointment for some time. There is a strong disinclination to add a mixed population of this description to the voting-power of the United States. The negroes give trouble enough already.

But it is impossible to doubt that sooner or later a large portion of Mexico, and eventually perhaps the whole of it, will fall under the direct influence of its vast sister-Republic. The Monroe doctrine has its positive as well as its negative side. For the time being, however, it is sufficient to suggest that a new period is dawning for Mexico with the development of railways, the opening of mines, the construction of the Central American canal or canals, and the increase of American and European interests in the country. If President Diaz proves successful in maintaining peace and restoring financial confidence, the change may come soon enough to astonish those who look upon Mexico as an almost hopeless country.

A HINDOO LADY ON HINDOO MARRIAGE.

The *Times of India*, commenting on a remarkable contribution to the discussion that has been going on for the last twelve months about the social status of Hindoo women, their position in the household, and their relations with the other sex, says:—"The story she has to tell is a sad one, and no doubt all the sadder inasmuch as her letter shows her to be possessed of very unusual natural abilities. The 'wicked practice of early marriage' has, she declares, destroyed the happiness of her life, coming between her and the things she prizes above all others—study and mental cultivation. 'Without the least fault of mine I am doomed to seclusion; every aspiration of mine to rise above my ignorant sisters is looked upon with suspicion, and is interpreted in the most uncharitable manner.' She writes with a good deal of feminine emphasis, but she amply proves her case, that the rich and poor, the old and young, of her sex suffer much misery and pain and degradation through the strict observance of social institutions invented by men for their own advantage. Every woman, on the death of her husband, even of a child-husband, is condemned to a life of perpetual widowhood. But a man may not only marry a second wife on the death of his first one, but can marry any number of wives at one and the same time. Even if he has only one wife, he continues to live in the bosom of his own family, and has never, under any circumstances, to submit to the tender mercies of a mother-in-law. In India all the boys and girls are betrothed indissolubly almost as soon as they are born. At the age of eight at latest a husband must be found for every girl. Girls are generally, perhaps, married at this age, and their parents are still at liberty to send them to school until they are ten years old. But after that the leave of the mother-in-law must be obtained. 'But even in these advanced times,' exclaims our correspondent, 'and even in Bombay—the chief centre of civilisation—how many mothers-in-law are there who send their daughters to school after they are ten years old?' Thus the girls are taken away from school just when they are beginning to understand and appreciate education. Even girls belonging to the most advanced families are mothers before they are fourteen, and have henceforth to devote themselves to the hard realities of life. The unfortunate Hindoo bride may neither sit nor speak in the presence of any elder member of her husband's family. She must work with the servants, rise early, and go to bed late, and be perpetually abused and frequently beaten by her mother-in-law. She must live in the most rigid seclusion. Her husband, who is entirely dependent on his family, can never take her side, and, fresh himself from college, is apt to despise her for her ignorance, and to tolerate her as a necessary evil. Our correspondent deliberately declares that 'the treatment which even servants receive from their European masters is far better than falls to the share of us Hindoo women. We are treated worse than beasts.' The strength both of mind and body is sapped by these early marriages. The children either die off like weakly seedlings or grow up without vigour. The women lose their beauty at twenty, are long past their prime at thirty, and old at forty. But a worse fate awaits them if, instead of being Hindoo wives, they become Hindoo widows. Of this wretched fate our correspondent fortunately knows nothing personally, and so cannot write from experience. But there are 22,000,000 widows in India, many of whom lost their nominal husbands when they were children, and none of whom can ever marry again. For the rest of their lives they are deprived of ornaments and coloured garments, their heads are shaven, they are condemned to the coarsest clothes and poorest food, and wear out their days in seclusion as the lowest drudges of the household. They have to live like nuns, but amid all the temptations of a little world in which they are regarded as inferior beings, and when they hide their shame they are handed over to the English law for punishment."

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. D. G. Davies, Rector of Shirrewton, to Rural Deanery of Netherwent East.

Rev. J. G. Davis, Rector of Holy Trinity, Exeter, and Rural Dean of Christianity, to be Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. L. Estridge, late vicar of Lodsworth, Sussex, to Vicarage of Burseldon, Hants. Patrons, Winchester College.

Rev. T. Eykyn, Vicar of Pattishall, Northants. Patron, Mrs. Welch.

Rev. R. V French, Rector of Llanmartin and Rural Dean of Netherwent East, to Rural Deanery of Netherwent West.

Rev. E. Greensill (Dublin), Curate-in-Charge of Holy Trinity, Salford, to Perpetual Curacy of Christ Church, Accrington. Patrons, the Trustees.

Rev. J. Hodson, to Rectory of Beeby, Leicestershire. Patron, Mr. John Holyoak.

Rev. W. How, S.P.G. Missionary at Greenspond, Newfoundland, to be S.P.G. Missionary at Rose Blanche, Newfoundland. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. C. Hume, to Rectory of Boulge-with-Debach, Suffolk.

Rev. H. P. Knapton, Headmaster of Taunton College School, to Vicarage of Spreyton. Patron, the Rev. W. B. Doveton.

Rev. J. Linstott, to be Chaplain of the Northern Counties Orphan Institution, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Rev. R. B. Lowe, to Rectory of Market Bosworth-cum-Shenton and Barlestone, Leicestershire. Patron, Mr. J. Lowe.

Rev. W. M. Miller, to Vicarage of Stony Stratford, Bucks. Patron, the Bishop of Oxford.

Rev. T. Mooney, to Vicarage of Heywood. Patron, the Trustees.

Rev. J. R. Phillips, of the *Thisbe* Mission Ship, Cardiff, to Perpetual Curacy of Llanfrechfa Upper.

Rev. T. Pitts, Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to Rectory of All Saints', Loughborough.

Rev. D. Pugh, Curate of Llangeinor, to Perpetual Curacy of Bettws, Bridgend.

Rev. B. Ring, to be British Chaplain at Caen. Patron, the S.P.G.

Rev. M. E. Ruddock, Curate of St. John the Divine, Kennington, to Vicarage of Ardeley, near Stevenage, Herts. Patrons, the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's.

Rev. W. W. Secretan, late Curate of St. Peter's, Plymouth, to Rectory of St. Mary Steps, Exeter. Patron, the Rev. J. B. Strother.

Rev. J. K. Taylor, Curate of St. Saviour's, Croydon, to be Deputy Priest-Vicar in Lichfield Cathedral.

Rev. A. T. J. Thackeray, to Vicarage of Norton Subcourse, Norfolk.

Rev. N. K. Torre, late Curate of Berry Pomeroy for Bridgetown, Devon, to Rectory of Wear Gifford. Patron, Earl Fortescue.

Rev. H. Tudor, Rector of Welborough, Newton Abbot, and Rural Dean of Moreton, to be Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. A. S. Valpy, Rector of Holy Trinity and St. Mary's, Guildford, to be Surrogate for Surrey portion of Diocese of Winchester.

Rev. C. Witherby, Curate-in-Charge of St. Matthew's, Battersea, to Rectory of St. Paul's, Charlton. Patron, Sir S. M. Maryon-Wilson, Bart.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.—Rev. C. A. Walker, to Cottingham.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE.—Rev. I. Walton, to Longmarton.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF CHESTER.—Revs. A. K. Cooper, to Disley; D. Price to St. James's, Birkenhead; T. M. Tozer, to St. Mary's, Newton-in-Mottram.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF EXETER.—Revs. J. W. Gaud, to Christ Church, Plymouth; W. W. Richards, to St. David's, Exeter.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.—Revs. R. B. Clarke, M.A., to St. Andrew's, Southport; D. Thomas, to Halsall.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF LLANDAFF.—Rev. M. Jones, to Pantog.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE.—Revs. G. W. Jackson, M.A., to Holy Saviour, Tynemouth; C. W. James, B.A., to Ovingham.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF NORWICH.—Rev. W. J. Egar, M.A., to Wells-next-the-Sea.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE HON. AND REV. CANON GORDON, GUARDIAN OF THE SPIRITUALITIES DURING THE VACANCY OF THE SEE OF SALISBURY.—Rev. N. Wells, B.A., to St. Edmund's, Salisbury.

OBITUARY.

July 30, at Buxton, the Rev. William Thomas Redfern, M.A., for forty years Vicar of St. James's, Taunton, aged 67.

July 30, at Belmont-park, Lee, S.E., the Rev. Henry Irwin Cummins, Rector of St. Alban's, Wood-street, and St. Olave's, Silver-street, aged 61.

July 30, at Chelsea, the Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, M.A., Rector of the parish, aged 95.

July 31, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, the Rev. Henry Law Cooper, aged 58.

Aug. 3, suddenly, the Rev. Gilbert Henderson Phillips, M.A., Rector of Bolton Percy, Yorks, Canon of York, Chaplain to the Archbishop and Rural Dean, aged 63.

Aug. 3, at the Rectory, Upton Scudamore, Wilts, the Rev. John Baron, D.D., F.S.A., aged 68.

Aug. 4, at the Charing-cross Hotel, the Rev. Charles Herbert Bree, Rector of Washford Pyne, N. Devon, the eldest son of the Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands, aged 34.

Aug. 4, at Exmouth, Devon, the Rev. Francis Lipscomb, for fifty-three years Rector of Welbury, Yorkshire, aged 87.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE.

OXFORD.

The following degrees were conferred on Saturday:—

B.C.L.—W. Marshall, Hertford.

M.A.—Browne, Trinity; W. Savile, Keble; W. Marshall and H. Vassall, Hertford; F. Wyberg, unattached.

B.A.—C. Cuthbertson, University; L. B. Burd and T. Griffiths, Balliol; J. Hodges, A. Parnell, and J. Pearce, Merton; D. Buckle, W. Russell, and N. Shearer, Exeter; G. Aitken, E. Coleridge, and H. Stokoe, Oriel; R. Lattimer, Queen's; L. Bebb and R. Morant, New; P. Taylor and F. Wallace, Lincoln; H. Cronshaw, All Soul's; F. Bussell, H. Hansell, and A. Stewart, Magdalen; E. Boddington, A. Casson, E. Grant, and R. Johnston, Brasenose; S. Beaton, W. Carroll, and H. Munro, Christchurch; F. Berridge and C. Eliot, Trinity; C. Kingsford, G. Pratt, and G. Rushworth, St. John's; T. Richards, Jesus; T. Nuttall, Pembroke; A. Bickmore, H. Birkmyre, H. Lawrence, and J. Stuttiers, Worcester; W. Fairbrother, H. Huntingdon, T. Mackesy, and G. Trower, Keble; G. Cleave and E. Cosbould, Hertford; A. Coates and B. Shaw, non. col.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Bishop of Brisbane, the former vicar of St. John the Evangelist, Red Lion-square, was on Saturday evening presented with an illuminated address from the vestry of his late parish and with a dinner service and suite of furniture for his episcopal palace in Queensland. The presentation was made by Mr. Churchwarden Latham, and appropriately acknowledged.

For the vast population of South London, numbering nearly a million souls, there was not till quite recently any Church provision for the Welsh; but the Rev. E. N. Willson, vicar of St. Paul's, Southwark, is making an effort to supply the deficiency. After much painful effort he has established a Welsh service at the parochial institute, near the Church in Westminster-road. It is conducted by one of the curates (the Rev. P. Edwards) every Sunday evening at seven.

It is stated that the Dean of St. Paul's, who has taken the place of Canon Liddon this month, preached on Sunday afternoon in his Cathedral for the first time, excepting on the mornings of the four festivals of the year, when he occupies the pulpit.

The death is announced of the Rev. Charles Herbert Bree, which took place on Tuesday at Charing-cross Hotel. The rev. gentleman, who was in his 34th year, was the eldest son of the Bishop of Barbadoes and the Windward Islands, and rector of Washford-Pyne, near Crediton, North Devon.

The parish church of Avebury, Wilts, having been restored at a cost of £30,000, a bazaar was opened on Wednesday by Mr. Walter Long, M.P., to clear off the debt of £300 remaining.

We have to announce the death of the Rev. Canon Gilbert Henderson Phillips, which took place early on Tuesday morning. He took his degree of B.A. in 1845, and of M.A. in 1848 at Oxford. He was ordained deacon in 1846 and priest in 1847. His last charge was in 1883, when he was appointed to the valuable living of Bolton Percy, near York, which he held at the time of his death. Among other positions, he was one of the Archbishop of York's chaplains, synodal secretary of the York Convocation, and editor of the *York Journal of Convocation*, rural dean of Snaith, rural dean of Bishopthorpe, Canon of York and Prebend of Strensall, and editor of the *York Diocesan Calendar*.

We have to record the death of a venerable archæologist, the Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, rector of Clyst St. George, near Topsham, Devon, which occurred on Thursday, the 30th ult. The deceased, who was 95 years of age, graduated at Oriel College, Oxford, taking his bachelor's degree in 1812, and proceeding M.A. in due course. He was ordained deacon in 1816 by the Bishop of Exeter, Dr. Pelham, and was admitted to priest's orders in the following year by the Bishop of Gloucester, Dr. Monk. Having held for a few years successively the curacies of Cricklade and Bitton, he was appointed in 1835 to the vicarage of the latter parish, which he held till 1850. He afterwards held the rectory of Clyst St. George. Mr. Ellacombe was the author of several privately-printed works on church bells and other historical works, including *The Bells of Devonshire*, *Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers*, *the Bells of Exeter Cathedral*, *The Bells of Somerset*, *The History of Clyst St. George*, and *History of the Manor of Bitton*.

The Rev. John Baron, D.D., F.S.A., died on Monday at Upton Scudamore, near Warminster, aged 68 years. Dr. Baron graduated at Queen's College, Oxford, taking his Bachelor's degree in 1838, and proceeding M.A. in due course. He was ordained deacon in 1840, and admitted to priest's orders in the following year. He has held the rectory of Upton Scudamore, in the diocese of Salisbury, since 1850. He was Michel Fellow of Queen's College from 1841 till 1851, and took the degrees of B.D. and D.D. in 1878. He was the author of, *inter alia*, *Scudamore Organs, or Practical Hints respecting Organs for Village Churches*, and *The Anglo-Saxon Witness on Four Alleged Requisites for Holy Communion—namely, Fasting, Water, Altar Lights, and Incense*. He was also the editor of *Johnson's English Canons*, translated from the Anglo-Saxon.

There was a numerous gathering of the clergy of the diocese of Exeter yesterday week, at which the Bishop of London (Dr. Temple) was presented with an address. The Archdeacon of Exeter presided, and made the presentation. In the evening the Bishop of London was presented with a testimonial raised by 1d. subscriptions among the total abstainers of the diocese. It consisted of an amethyst seal in gold setting. On the face of the seal are the letters "F. L., a parting gift from the total abstainers of Devon." On the one face are the arms of Dr. Temple, impaled with those of the See of London. The presentation was made by Mr. H. B. Samuelson, M.P.

By the death in his 61st year of the Rev. Henry I. Cummins, the rectory of St. Alban's, Wood-street, and St. Olave's, Silvertown, has become vacant, the deceased having held the same since 1854. It is worth £680 a year, and is in the gift alternately of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's and Eton College, the latter being the patrons for this turn.

Sir Henry Peek has issued a circular to the clergy of the metropolis calling attention to the state of ecclesiastical affairs in the City, and giving facts to show the amount of money spent relatively to the accommodation required in four churches:—St. Dunstan's-in-the-East (700 sittings), St. George's, Botolph-lane (200 sittings), St. Margaret Pattens, Rood-lane (450 sittings), and St. Mary-at-Hill (450 sittings). These churches, which were regularly visited during the months of March, April, May, and June, showed an average attendance of twenty-two officials for each church, while the congregation average was thirty-three. Sir Henry contends that more than forty of the City churches are wholly superfluous, and that a capital sum of more than two millions sterling (independent of charity funds) is locked up in them, doing more harm than good. He appeals for the removal of these useless foundations to neighbourhoods in greater spiritual destitution.

The Rev. Coker Adams, rector of Saham Toney, has excommunicated Mr. Payne, a farmer, eighty-two years of age, who does not attend church, and who, it is said, has refused the clergyman admission to his house. A letter was written threatening to excommunicate him, but Mr. Payne, not understanding the process, wrote to inquire whether any part of the last half-year's tithe had accidentally remained unpaid. He received the following reply:—

Sir,—My letter of last Sunday was not written in consequence of any personal matter. You have, as you truly say, always paid me my dues. I wrote to remind you that you had persistently neglected to attend the Church's services, and refused to receive her ministers, and that I should therefore feel it my painful duty to pronounce you out off from the Church communion and membership. The wish I expressed at the end of my letter was quite sincere, and remains unaltered still.

Yours faithfully,
COKER ADAMS.

The wish referred to in the first letter was that the rector prayed God to change Mr. Payne's heart and save his soul. When the sentence was pronounced the whole congregration was taken by surprise. Just before the sermon the rev. gentleman said, "In the name of God," &c., making use of the entire form of excommunication, which is generally believed to be obsolete. Mr. Payne seemed unmoved by the proceeding.

The fine old church of Bishops Stortford, which has been undergoing partial restoration under the direction of Mr. Blomfield, has been completed. The Venetian mosaics, from the designs of Mr. Taylor, of Berners-street, representing "The Transfiguration," and which form the commencement of the proposed treatment of the entire east wall in mosaics, have now been erected in the reredos, in readiness for the reopening of the church.

At Exeter on Thursday afternoon the Bishop of London was presented with a service of plate valued at £600, subscribed for in his late diocese of Exeter, in recognition of his services to the Church and the diocese during the sixteen years of his connection with it. The presentation was made by the Mayor of Exeter at a public luncheon. The testimonial consists of a centre oval bowl on an ebonised wood base, a pair of large candelabra for seven lights each, and four large oval fruit baskets. The design is classical, bas-reliefs of the arms of Exeter, of the Bishop, and the see are introduced throughout the service. On the base of the centre-piece is represented in relief Blundell's School, Tiverton, where the Bishop was educated. The candelabra bears views of the Cathedral (west front) and of the Old Guildhall.

LAY INFLUENCE IN THE IRISH CHURCH.

Dr. Liddon, in a recent letter, illustrated his views on the subject of the proposed House of Laymen by a reference to the "havoc" committed on the Irish Prayer-Book. He now writes to explain more in detail why he employs the word "havoc" to describe the most characteristic alterations which have been made by the Irish "Synod" in the Book of Common Prayer. He says:—

"The answer is that havoc implies a destructive process, conducted upon no easily ascertained principle. Setting aside the few occasional services which the revisers have added to the old Prayer-Book, this account of their work appears to me to be a just one. Their work may suggest the irruption of an animal into a flower garden; he treads down some flowers and eats others, and leaves many of great beauty untouched, but his proceedings do not admit of being explained by any easily observed law of action. Let me illustrate this by two or three examples.

"1. The Irish Prayer-book still inserts the Athanasian Creed between the Evening Prayer and the Litany. But there is no direction whatever for its use in the public service of the Church. The Creed remains in the book on the same terms as does the table of contents or the preface. It is no part of the authorised service of the Church, and although the new preface speaks of 'its witness' as 'not withdrawn,' such 'witness' is not very likely to command much attention. Possibly now and then the Creed may be read when, during the progress of a dull sermon, some fatigued hearer passes the time by making an excursion into the less known corners of his Prayer-book. The 'Synod' has banished the Creed from the Church's public service; yet, oddly enough, it retains the Eighth Article intact. That Article traverses all the important objections to the *Quicunque*. It calls it a Creed; ranks it between the Nicene and the Apostles' Creed; affirms that, like them, it ought thoroughly to be received and believed, without reservation as to warning clauses or anything else; and gives as a reason that it may be proved by certain warrant of Holy Scripture.

"If the 'Synod' had struck out the words 'Athanasius's Creed from the Eighth Article, there would have been something else to say about its proceeding. But it adheres to the old statement that the Creed ought to be thoroughly received and believed by Christians, while it withdraws the wonted opportunity of acting on this language! How does a Creed differ from a decree of a council, but by being a document whose very *raison d'être* is that it should be uttered publicly by the assembled and believing Church? If the 'Synod' still accepts the Article, why not continue the public recital of the Creed? If it objects to the public use of the Creed, why not also alter the Article? Its actual course is what I mean by 'havoc,' as distinct from destructive action which proceeds on a principle.

"2. The Irish 'Synod' has cast out of its new Prayer-Book that precious absolution of a penitent on his death-bed, which the clergy of the Church of England are ordered to use, 'if the sick person humbly and heartily desire it.' For this the 'Synod' has substituted the form in the Communion Service, which, however beautiful and consolatory in its proper place, has all the character of a formulary composed for congregational usage, and is ill adapted to replace the more direct conveyance of God's pardoning mercy.

"The reasons given for this disastrous change are that the rejected Absolution 'has been the cause of offence to many, and is a form unknown to the Church in ancient time' (preface to Irish Prayer-Book). Of these reasons the first is equally true of much besides, both in the Prayer-Book and the Bible; the second is much more true of all these portion of the Prayer-Book, which, unlike the Absolution in question, date only from the Reformation. It is not difficult, however, to understand the true reason for the objections to this part of the authorised language of the Church of England; and accordingly all English projects for revising the Prayer-Book, whether in the interests of Puritanism or of Socinianism, include a proposal to admit the Absolution as a matter of course. But then our would-be English revisers demand a corresponding alteration in the Service for Ordination of Priests. It, too, is 'the cause of offence to many; and is a form unknown to the Church of ancient time.' The objections on the score of date and form apply equally to the two Offices; and may be met by considerations which are practically identical. Nay, more; the words addressed by the Bishop to the man who is being ordained a priest, 'Receive the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a priest in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven,' are the correlative and warrant of the words in the Visitation Service, 'By His authority committed unto me, I absolve thee from all thy sins.'

"Now the odd thing is that the Irish 'Synod,' while getting rid of the Absolution in the Visitation Service has left the Ordinal untouched. Of course I am very glad that it has done so; but I cannot understand its principle. It was freely said in England at the time that the lawyers in the 'Synod' advised the 'Synod' not to make any changes in the Ordinal which might throw legal difficulties in the way of young men ordained in Ireland who might be looking to preferment in England. However this may have been, the difference of proceeding on the part of the 'Synod' in respect of the two Offices illustrates what I mean by 'havoc.' Loyalty to a serious conviction would either have left both formulas where they were, or would have swept both away.

"3. The Irish 'Synod' has banished from its Lectionary all those books of the Old Testament which are called Apocrypha. It has even cut out of the Offertory in the Communion Service those two beautiful sentences from Tobit, which, ever since the Reformation, have been so dear to every generation of English and Irish Churchmen. For this no reason is given; but the Puritan dislike of these sacred books is sufficiently well known. Yet, oddly enough, the 'Synod' retains, in the Sixth Article, the formal assertion that 'the Church doth read' these books 'for example of life and instruction of manners.' When or where the Irish Church now reads them, it would be hard to say. Had the 'Synod' made its Sixth Article run thus—'The other books the Church doth not read because they are wholly uninspired, or wholly unprofitable,' whatever else might be said, its proceeding would have been too intelligible to be described as 'havoc.'

"This is not a matter in which English High Churchmen alone would share the feeling which I am expressing. In one of the last conversations which I had with the late Dean Stanley he was lamenting the disappearance from the new English Lectionary of portions of the Apocrypha which had been read in the Church ever since the Reformation. However, for twenty-two days of every autumn the English Church still reads the most beautiful of the Apocryphal books continuously. These books are indeed a bridge by which we pass easily from the inspired thought of the Old Testament to that of the New. In them Greek and Hebrew wisdom meet to form the language which, in the hands of the Apostles, was to express the sublimest truths about the Person of our Lord. The Protestant commentator and scholar Meyer has pointed out the intimate connection which exists between the Book of Wisdom and the Epistle to the Romans. The Apocryphal books occupy, of course, a rank distinct from and lower than the books of the Hebrew and Chaldee Canon; but their rejection from the public service of the Church, besides its departure from primitive practice, encourages the idea that a much greater gap exists between these books and those of the Hebrew and Chaldee Canon than can be proved, whether on external or internal grounds.

"There is much else to be said about the new Irish Prayer-Book; but I am not reviewing it. I am only justifying my use of the term 'havoc' as descriptive of some of the destructive alterations which make it what it is. But the temper which has dictated these alterations is unhappily illustrated by the 36th of the new Canons enacted by the 'Synod.' The grotesque and implacable character of this document is probably unique in Christendom. The Canon runs thus:—

"'There shall not be any cross, ornamented or otherwise, on the communion-table, or on the covering thereof, nor shall a cross be erected or depicted on the wall or other structure, behind the communion-table, in any of the churches or other places of worship of the Church of Ireland.'

"I believe that there are few Dissenting ministers in London who would not be ashamed of this pitiful and unworthy jealousy of the symbol of our Redemption. In a body which still professes to set store on its descent from St. Patrick such authorised fanaticism is indeed astounding."

After observing that it is "impossible not to reflect with regret upon the too probable fate of a Church which has put it into the power of a good-humoured but theologically uneducated laity to disfigure or destroy the handiwork of saints and scholars, consecrated by the prayers of centuries, and dearer than life to thousands of living Christians," Dr. Liddon proceeds to mention the names of two laymen who are notoriously accomplished theologians:—"In a long conversation, which I had with Dr. Döllinger since Dr. Pusey's death, he expressed to me his opinion that the greatest of living English theologians, in the accurate sense of that word, is Mr. Gladstone. A Roman Catholic told me that the late Dr. Ward, editor of the *Dublin Review*, who was never in Roman Catholic orders, was a much better divine than most of the Roman Catholic Bishops in England; and among ourselves the honoured names of Robert Nelson in the last century, and of that great Irishman, Alexander Knox, in this, will occur to everybody. And if the question be asked, how such great gifts in a layman can best be enlisted in the service of the Church, the answer surely is that such laymen, in a healthy state of things, would be always consulted as 'experts' by the Bishops. In this way they would control, not one, but many votes, without violating the constitution of the Church, and opening the doors of its Synods to the well-meant but uninstructed clamour of their less gifted brethren. . . .

"When the Irish Church was disestablished many English eyes were anxiously directed to see how she would use her freedom. On the one hand, she had much way to make up in practical enterprise; on the other, she had inherited from bygone generations that great gift of God's Providence, which had hitherto bound her, and which, we hoped, would always bind her, to ourselves—the Book of Common Prayer. When we were looking to see what large efforts she might be setting on foot for the good of the Irish people, what was our dismay to learn that, by the agency of a mixed assembly of clergymen and laymen, which she called a 'Synod,' she was setting herself to 'revise,' or, in other terms, to alter her ancient Prayer-Book! The practical reasons against such a proceeding were so obvious and so weighty that, as we thought, the resolve could only be attributed to an imperative sense of religious necessity, dictated by conscientious objections to the language of the existing Prayer-Book, understood in its natural sense. Now that the 'revision' is completed, the new preface is good enough to assure us that it implies 'no censure upon the former book as containing anything contrary to the Scriptures.' But, if so, why endanger both truth and charity by making the change? Your correspondent perhaps thinks that to silence a Catholic Creed, to proscribe an Absolution for the dying which has been used ever since the Reformation, as well as before, to depart from Christian antiquity by ceasing to read books which, though not of the first rank in inspiration, have been read reverently and always by the Church of Christ—are matters of no great moment. If it be so, why risk alienation from English brethren who are very seriously of another opinion, and who advisedly describe such unhappy dealing with our common inheritance as 'havoc'; if, indeed, it be not also—I do not say in its motive, but in its result—unfaithfulness to a precious and sacred deposit?

"My language must necessarily, I fear, be irritating; but it only puts into words what is thought and felt by numbers of English Churchmen, who would gladly be one in heart and purpose with their Irish brethren. Irish Churchmen have difficulties in their path to which we are not exposed in the same degree; and they have natural gifts which God has denied to the more sluggish temperament of our Saxon race, but which, under proper guidance, are of the greatest possible value to the Church of Christ. We do not forget the solid works which, in past days, Irishmen have contributed to Anglican theology; we rejoice to remember that at this moment the greatest preacher among us on this side the Channel is a Bishop of Irish birth. Is it too much to hope that some day this unhappy 'Revision,' which has done so much to separate the Churches, may be itself 'revised?' The 'Synod' is not likely to hazard a definition of its own infallibility. And if it should ever decree a return to the old Prayer-Book of the Church of England and Ireland, the only feeling which would modify our thankful joy would be occasioned by an anxiety lest an act of such wisdom and charity and humility might tempt English Churchmen at some future time to copy the irregular constitution of the body which had been capable of so admirable an effort."

CHURCH OF ENGLAND WORKING MEN'S SOCIETY.

The ninth anniversary festival of the Church of England Working Men's Society was held on Saturday evening, in the Pillar-hall of the Cannon-street Hotel. Mr. W. Inglis, the president, occupied the chair, and there was a numerous attendance of delegates from London and provincial branches.

The PRESIDENT, in his opening address, said they had, notwithstanding much opposition, at last entered upon their legitimate work in the home-mission field. A great and good work had already been done, but they must not rest satisfied with it. What they wanted was to see their constitution administered to its full extent, so that branches might be enabled fully to meet the wants of their respective districts as they saw need, and as the work developed and was suitable to the locality. Whilst working under a head, for the sake of unity, they must avoid centralisation—the weak point of too many associations. Local wants must be met by local efforts, and by enlisting every available effort, so as to carry out a steady, persistent conflict between holiness and unholiness, and purity and uncleanness. They desired to work upon Church lines, and not to become weak imitators of the Salvation Army, and endeavour to put down vulgarity by becoming more vulgar, or check profanity by being even more profane. He went on to remark that it depended upon the Church whether the new political power given to their fellow working-men would become an instrument of good or of evil. There was a persistent agency at work in the villages and hamlets for the avowed object of perverting the newly bestowed gift to the destruction of the National Church. This the society must meet by assisting the Church Defence Society in throwing light upon the cunning inventions of the Liberation Society. That society would kindly relieve them of their endowments and churches; and if Mr. Albert Grey's Church Board Bill were to pass, the clergy

finances, and the worship would be handed over to this board, consisting of anybody the parish might elect, and which might be a heterogeneous mass of orthodoxy, heterodoxy, or no doxy at all. He wished to impress upon all Churchpeople to be more in earnest about the religious education of their little ones. It was not a fancied evil, but a real danger; for while we had a system of education fast growing and increasing in our midst that ignored religion altogether, or reduced it to homœopathic doses even in those schools professedly denominational—that was, who gave religious instruction—there ought to be greater efforts made to stay the increasing secular element, and to encourage a return to a better system of religious teaching, and as a first instalment let each parish clergyman be his own diocesan inspector, and examine faithfully as a duty his schools in religious knowledge. In conclusion, he said in the name of the Church of England Working Men's Society they had suffered contumely together; in that name they had fought for truth and contended for right together; in that name they had at last been recognised as genuine Church workers; and in that name and nothing more let them work together for God's Church and the well-being of their fellows.

The Secretary (Mr. C. Powell) read an extract from the report, by which it appeared that during last year 284 branches and local agencies were registered upon the books of the Society. The approximate total of members, associates, and hon. members was 8,500. Over 280,000 leaflets had been distributed during the year, and 2,164 meetings had been held. All this, in addition to the mission work performed by local branches, showed an activity unexampled in any previous year of the Society's existence. With regard to finance, the society was for the first time able to hold up its head. They had paid off the debt which had pressed upon them for so many years, and had a balance in the bank of £600. The chief work of the year had been the mission work, and a band of 300 working men had been engaged nightly in the slums of the metropolis. It was with regret that they had once again to face the possibility of having to engage in a fight for the liberties of the Church, in the person of one of its most loyal and devoted priests, the Rev. J. Bell Cox, of Liverpool. The council would deeply regret suspending their mission work, but it would be treason to their principles to remain passive spectators of a renewal of the bitter spirit of persecution which seemed to threaten the priest and congregation of St. Margaret's, Liverpool. It was earnestly to be hoped that wise councils would prevail, and that the peace of the Church and the dying prayer and wish of the late Archbishop Tait would be respected.

Mr. A. E. Riley (Birmingham) moved:—

That this meeting views with sorrow and alarm the renewal of persecution of clergy in matters of ritual, feeling that in consequence thereof a fatal blow is likely to be dealt at the practical Christian work of evangelisation which the Society as a body has recently been enabled to adapt itself to. And, while desirous of exerting to the full extent the great resources of the Society as a missionary agency, and, anxious as it is to give to this loving work its undivided attention, feels that it cannot withhold its anxious desire that the heads of the Church will see their way to repress this outbreak of persecution against the Rev. J. Bell Cox, of St. Margaret's, Liverpool. More earnestly does the meeting impress this upon the Bishops, for the reason that the recent report of the Royal Commission condemns the existing Courts as not being in full harmony with ecclesiastical law and usage.

This was seconded by Mr. A. Cohen (Clerkenwell), supported by Mr. Down (Hughenden), Mr. Bishop (Oxford), Mr. Swan (Kennington), and Mr. Ashdown (Farncombe), and unanimously carried.

The following resolution was also, after discussion, adopted:—

That in view of the impending general election, this meeting desires to express the hope that Churchmen will, irrespective of party, vote only for those candidates who will oppose the disestablishment and disendowment of the English Church, support the voluntary system of Church schools, and the existing Marriage Laws as opposed to those who seek to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

The proceedings then closed.

On Sunday morning there was a corporate communion of members at St. Paul's Cathedral, and high celebration at St. Peter's, London Docks; a procession of members at St. Alban's, Holborn, took place in the afternoon; and in the evening special sermons were delivered in twenty-seven London and a large number of country churches.

THE COURT.

The Queen and Royal family, including the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Alfred, who came over from Osborne Cottage, and the members of the Royal household, attended Divine service at Osborne on Sunday. The Rev. Canon Duckworth officiated. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince George, and the Princesses Louise and Victoria of Wales visited the Queen in the afternoon. Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, visited Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg later in the afternoon. The Rev. Canon Duckworth dined with Her Majesty and the Royal family in the evening.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud of Wales, the Reigning Grand Duke of Mecklenberg-Strelitz, the Duke of Cambridge, Princess Mary Adelaide (Duchess) and the Duke of Teck and their younger sons, Prince Francis and Prince George, were present at the confirmation of the Princess Victoria Mary and Prince Adolphus of Teck, at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on Saturday. There were also present Lady Geraldine Somerset and Major-General Fulke Greville, Lady in Waiting and Master of the Household to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, Lady Caroline Cust, the Hon. Mary Thesiger, the Hon. Mrs. Percy Mitford, and Miss Knollys. The Right Rev. Lord Bishop of St. Albans officiated at the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Edgar Sheppard, Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal, and the Hon. and Rev. Edward Carr-Glyn, Chaplain to the Queen and vicar of Kensington.

After the ceremony the illustrious party lunched at the Duchess of Cambridge's residence in the Ambassadors' Court. Princess Victoria and Prince Adolphus received on the occasion presents from the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Grand Duke of Mecklenberg-Strelitz, the Duchess of Cambridge, and the Duke of Cambridge.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The death at Cambridge is announced of Mr. Robert Potts, M.A., of Trinity College, 26th Wrangler in 1832, and a well-known person years ago in connection with University reform. The sad event took place at his residence in Park-terrace, Cambridge. He was 83, was editor of *Euclid's Elements with Geometrical Exercises*, *Paley's Evidences*, and the author of other works, being active in literature to the close of his life.

An influential gathering of American and English statesmen and scientists celebrated on Wednesday the anniversary of the successful inauguration of oceanic telegraphy by a dinner given at the Star and Garter, Richmond, by Mr. Cyrus W. Field, who was one of the members of the company who originally promoted the adventure. The proceedings were of an interesting character. The toasts of "The Queen" and "The President of the United States" were drunk with especial enthusiasm; and the Chairman, in a short but highly interesting speech, alluded to the important part which the Atlantic telegraph had already played, and was likely still more largely to play, in promoting and cementing the bonds of perpetual peace between the nations of the world.

The Wesleyan Methodists report this year 413,245 members, or an increase of 2,861. There are increases amounting to 5,370 in twenty-three districts and decreases amounting to 2,109 in twelve. The heaviest increases are in London (Second and Third), where they reach 1,014; Bristol (519), Birmingham and Shrewsbury (415), Manchester (689), Sheffield (548), and Newcastle (351). The heaviest decreases are in Devonport (467), Cornwall (351), Bath (236), Halifax and Bradford (608), and Lincoln (199). The total number of new members was 48,834. There have been only 5,139 deaths, and the natural increase of the society ought, therefore, to have been 43,695, instead of 2,509.

It will be remembered that on March 29 of last year a clerk named Perkins (who resided in St. James's-road, Bermondsey) was brutally murdered at the offices of his employer, situate in Arthur-street, City, and from that time up to within the past few days no evidence has been discovered likely to throw any light upon the affair. During the present week communications have been opened up with a gentleman who was deeply interested in Perkins' welfare, and which may point to the perpetrator of the crime. The announcement has caused considerable excitement throughout the neighbourhood.

A somewhat amusing quarrel has arisen between the parishes of Kjelvik and Maasö about a point of considerable geographical interest—viz., the proprietorship of the North Cape. It is caused by the establishment on the celebrated promontory of a restaurant, the taxes of which are claimed by both parishes. The Cape has always been considered to form the boundary between the two, without it being stipulated to whom it actually belonged.

The School Board for London on Thursday had several discussions as to the day on which the triennial election should take place. Ultimately Monday, the 2nd November, was fixed upon. The debate on school pressure was resumed, and the recommendations of the special committee, except one, were agreed to. It was arranged to memorialise the Education Department on the question. The Board adjourned till October 8.

It has now been decided that General Lord Wolseley, G.C.B., &c., will resume the appointment of Adjutant-General at Headquarters on the 1st of September, and that Lieutenant-General Sir A. Alison, Bart., resumes the command of the troops at Aldershot. Major-General Harman, C.B., will then be appointed Military Secretary, vice Lieutenant-General Sir E. A. Whitmore, K.C.B., and he will be succeeded as Deputy Adjutant-General to the Forces by Major-General Sir G. R. Greaves, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Sir Joseph Pease has received a reply to the memorial presented to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on behalf of the customary tenantry (Dean and Chapter leaseholders) of the county of Durham. The Commissioners state that they do not consider it reasonable for the lessees, after, or, as it would almost seem, because, they have voluntarily failed or declined to avail themselves of the provisions enacted by Parliament on their behalf, to plead hardship when they are called upon to fulfil the covenants relating to giving up possession upon the expiration of their leases. The Commissioners do not feel justified in departing from the conclusions arrived at by Committees of both Houses of Parliament and recognised by the various statutes which have been passed to define the method of dealing with Church leasehold property. At the same time the Commissioners are desirous of meeting in a liberal spirit those lessees who may be prepared to negotiate with them on the general principles which have already proved acceptable to the great body of the Church lessees, including a majority of those whose leases were held under the Dean and Chapter of Durham. At a meeting of the representative body of the customary tenants, held at Darlington, profound regret was expressed at the nature of the Commissioners' reply, and a resolution was passed protesting against such an act of "spoliation and injustice" as was involved in depriving the customary tenants of lands which had been held by their predecessors in title from time immemorial. It was suggested that a county meeting on the subject should be called in the autumn.

The return of the Registrar-General shows that in London 2,459 births and 1,750 deaths were registered during last week. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 261, and the deaths 57, below the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years. The annual death-rate per 1,000 from all causes, which had steadily increased in the five preceding weeks from 16.3 to 20.9, further rose last week to 22.4. During the first four weeks of the current quarter the mean death-rate was 20.5 against 21.9 in the corresponding periods of the nine years 1876-84. The 1,750 deaths included 10 from small-pox, 71 from measles, 18 from scarlet fever, 23 from diphtheria, 47 from whooping-cough, 8 from enteric fever, 2 from ill-defined forms of continued fever, 348 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 13 from cholera or choleraic diarrhœa, and not one from typhus. The deaths attributed to diarrhœa and dysentery, which had been 110, 210, and 284 in the three preceding weeks, rose last week to 348, and exceeded the corrected average by twenty-three; 283 being of infants aged under one year. Of the thirteen deaths referred to cholera, three were of adults, and were certified as choleraic diarrhœa, while the remaining ten were of infants aged under two years. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which had been 197 and 180 in the two previous weeks, further declined last week to 172, and were fourteen below the corrected weekly average. Different forms of violence caused forty-three deaths; thirty-six were the result of negligence or accident, among which were seventeen from fractures and contusions, seven from burns and scalds, five from drowning, and two of infants under one year of age from suffocation.

A Bill has just passed through both Houses of Parliament dealing with Lord Haldon's extensive settled estates at Torquay and Haldon. It is recited that lands at Torquay could be sold to great advantage if opportunity were given to the lessees and persons holding under the building leases to purchase in small lots. The Act therefore proceeds to direct that such lands, which now produce an annual income of £10,000, are to be sold within the next ten years, and, according to a recital in the Act, they are expected to realise not less than £600,000. The Act further deals with the sales to the Local Board of Torquay for the sum of £75,000 of Torquay Harbour and of some small portion of the settled estates in the neighbourhood which are required or are intended to be used for public purposes. The Act authorises the raising by mortgage or mortgages on the fee the sum of £160,000 for the purpose of paying off the life charges of the present Lord Haldon, the settled estates being protected by policies on his Lordship's life. Another important power given under the Act is the acquisition of the manor of Ilsham, which forms a part of the town of Torquay, for a sum of £65,000, in order that it may be developed and disposed of in a similar manner to the rest of the settled estates at Torquay. Powers are taken to raise a sum not exceeding £20,000, which it is intended to expend upon the repair of the farmhouses and other buildings on the agricultural estates at Haldon.

In view of the approaching General Election, the executive committee of the Church of England Temperance Society have issued a circular to the electors. It is signed by Canon Ellison and the Rev. G. Howard Wright, as chairman and clerical superintendent of the society. The Legislature, it is pointed out, has determined that, on account of its dangerous properties, strong drink shall not be sold without a licence. Nevertheless, the Legislature has suffered the land to be studded with licensed houses in numbers beyond any possible requirements of the people. "This means, in the first place, a disastrous competition among the licence-holders, and the corresponding necessity of vigorously pushing their trade. . . . It means, ultimately, wholesale intemperance, with its long train of domestic sorrow and ruin, its pauperism, its crime, its lunacy, disease, and death, falling most heavily on the working classes. What the Legislature has done, it is urged, it can reverse. It can give to the people the power to interfere for their own preservation—the power of very largely reducing the number of public-houses, . . . of putting an end absolutely to the grocers' licence, and of closing wholly, or except for off-sale, on Sundays, the restrictions progressing as the public opinion of the locality progresses. This would be done by representative boards elected by the ratepayers, and is the Local Control Bill of the Church of England Temperance Society."

At the corresponding hour to that at which the friends assembled round the bier of General Grant at Mount M'Gregor, the Americans in London, together with representatives of the Queen and Royal Family, members of the late and the present Governments, and a number of distinguished men, attended a Memorial Service in Westminster Abbey. Archdeacon Farrar delivered an address on the life and character of General Grant. He commenced by remarking that eight years had not yet elapsed since Gen. Grant was conducted round Westminster Abbey by one whom Americans loved and honoured—Dean Stanley. Neither lived to attain the allotted span of human life, and both might have been expected to live many years longer. But this was the fourth summer since Dean Stanley had fallen asleep, and now the obsequies were being performed in America for the great soldier whom tens of thousands of his fellow-countrymen were mourning. He (the preacher) wished to speak of General Grant with generous appreciation, but no idle flattery. His faults, whatever they may have been, belonged not now to the world. They were for the judgment of God. General Grant's life fell into four marked divisions, each of which conveyed a memorable lesson to his countrymen. First came his years of penury and poverty, with its absolute self-denial. Poor and humbly born, he had to make his own way until he got his first step upward by the gift of a cadetship at West Point. When his military education was complete he had a brief term of active service in the Mexican war, during which he had been twice honourably mentioned in despatches. When hostilities were over and a long period of peace seemed likely to ensue, he settled to humble trade in a provincial district. Citizens of St. Louis still remember the rough backwoodsman who sold cord wood from door to door. Afterwards he entered the leather trade in the obscure town of Galena, and men who knew him described him as a silent, unambitious man, whose chief aim was to get a plank road made from his works to the railway depot. In 1861, when the terrible war broke out, with the hour came the man who was needed; and in four years the struggling dealer had risen to the chief command of the vastest army that had ever been handled. In battle after battle, and siege after siege, in whatever he had to do, Grant did it with all his might. He undertook that which no one else would have ventured, until his very soldiers began to reflect his indominable determination. Nothing could daunt him, and whilst attending to the vastest plans he looked after the minutest details; and he defeated every leader of the opposite side except Stonewall Jackson. Grant had been severely blamed, but he ought not to have been. He had been called a butcher, but the charge was grossly unjust, for he loved peace and hated bloodshed. His heart was generous and kind; he despised the mere pomp and circumstance of war; his orders were to save lives if he could, but at all costs to save his country, and he did so. The struggle was not for victory, it was for existence; not for glory, but for life and death. His was a mighty work, and he did it mightily. Having touched upon the life of General Grant after the war and pointed out that he became President half against his will, Archdeacon Farrar went on to refer to the fortitude with which he bore the trials and misfortunes of his later years, and in conclusion observed that there could be no more fitting place in which to pay tribute to the memory of such a man than Westminster Abbey. There was the grave of André, the monument raised by grateful Massachusetts to the memory of the gallant Howe, the temporary resting-place of Peabody, the bust of Longfellow, and above the Dean's grave the semblance of Boston Harbour. Whatever between the two peoples should be forgotten and forgiven, let it be so. Said General Grant, "I will not speak of them as two peoples, because we are one people with a common destiny, and that destiny will be brilliant in proportion to the friendship and co-operation of the brethren dwelling on each side of the Atlantic." Let America take her place side by side with England in the van of freedom and progress, united by common language, common blood, common interests, common history, and common hopes. It should be the steadfast purpose of the two peoples who were really one people to show all the world not only the magnificent spectacle of human happiness, but the still more magnificent spectacle of two peoples loving righteousness and hating iniquity, inflexibly faithful to the principles of eternal justice, which were the unchanging law of God.

Bank Holiday, or, as it is coming to be called, Lammas Monday, was a great success. The weather was somewhat threatening, but the day was fair, and the very absence of a scorching sun rendered outdoor places of resort perhaps more enjoyable. The traffic of the Great Northern Railway from London was heavier last week than in any week in the history of the company. The returns of the Brighton Railway exceeded those of last year by £1,600. The Chatham and Dover line also did extremely well. The passengers from Paddington between Saturday morning and Monday evening numbered 33,000, against 31,000 last year. The returns of the South-Western Railway were very satisfactory. The Great Eastern carried 110,000 passengers against 113,000 last year, when the weather was so much more tempting for Epping Forest. The receipts of Messrs. Cook, the excursion agents, last week exceeded those of last year by no less than £5,000. At the Euston station the North Western line booked nearly 15,000 passengers. At Kew the visitors were 78,000 (or 10,000 fewer than last year); at the Zoological Gardens 21,828; at the British Museum 8,375 (or 5,000 more); at South Kensington 9,747 (against 11,650 last year); at Hampton Court, about 45,000; at Windsor Castle, 6,998; at the Crystal Palace, 48,314; and at the Albert Palace, Battersea, 25,000. By permission of the Archbishop of Canterbury, a party of between seven and eight hundred poor people from Southwark were entertained at Lambeth Palace by Miss Octavia Hill. Miss Tait, Miss Johnson, and other ladies superintended the arrangements.

The half-yearly general meeting of the London and County Banking Company (Limited) took place on Thursday at the Cannon-street Hotel, Mr. W. A. Jones occupying the chair. The report of the directors showed that after paying interest to customers and all charges, making provision for bad and doubtful debts, and for rebate on bills not due, £27,055 11s. 8d., the net profits amounted to £234,190 16s. 9d. This sum, added to £18,219 0s. 10d., the balance brought forward from the last account, produced a total of £252,409 17s. 7d. They had declared an interim dividend for the half-year of 10 per cent., which would absorb £200,000, leaving the sum of £52,409 17s. 7d. to be carried forward to profit and loss new account. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke of the low rate of interest now quoted by the Bank of England, and added that in the present state of active competition amongst houses of business no one should be asked to explain how the profits of a concern were made. The result of the half-year's work was that the directors were in a position to declare a dividend of 10 per cent. and to carry forward a balance of £52,000, after making the most ample provision for bad and doubtful debts. Having regard to the fact that there might be a continuance for some time of these low rates of interest, the directors had thought it to the benefit of the shareholders to carry forward such a large balance, and they had also increased their investments by £365,876. In addition to a large business in London they had a large and extensive business in the country among farmers, many of whom were shareholders, and he congratulated those gentlemen on what he hoped was going to prove a good harvest. In conclusion, he would congratulate the proprietors on the results that had been obtained. The number of current accounts had increased by 2,875, making a total of 82,606 accounts; and when they were able to pay such a dividend, and carry forward so large a balance, he hoped they would consider that their important interests had been well looked after. Mr. Frederick Francis seconded the adoption of the report, which, after a few congratulatory remarks from Mr. Hurst, was carried *nem. con.* Mr. West, in proposing a vote of thanks to the directors, gave notice that he would at the next meeting move an addition of £1,000 to their remuneration.

Metropolitan Free Hospital.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending July 25 was—medical 356, surgical 399; total 1,254, of which 547 were new cases.

Caution.—Water Filtration.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the Only Filters, containing nothing but the purest Animal Charcoal, are those supplied by the London and General Water-Purifying Company (Limited) 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

LATEST NEWS.

ST. PETERSBURG, August 7.

The semi-official *Journal de St. Pétersbourg*, in an article to-day upon the Afghan question, says:—"We shall not dwell upon the explanations entered into by Lord Salisbury on the 4th inst. regarding the causes of the delay in the settlement of the Zulficar question. These causes are known, and we may presume that the supplementary information considered necessary by the Russian Government will be received before long. As regards the occupation of strategical positions in Afghan territory, we may observe that the independence of Afghanistan is part and parcel of the arrangements concluded between England and Russia, and serving as a basis for pending negotiations."

The same journal, alluding to the report which recently reached Teheran of an alleged concentration of Afghan troops near Penjdeh, and the despatch of Russian reinforcements to that place, states that no confirmation of the rumour has been received here. It points out, moreover, that Penjdeh, having been neutralised in consequence of the affair of March 3, could not be entered by either Russian or Afghan troops.

The great majority of the Russian newspapers declare that they place no confidence in Lord Salisbury's recent pacific declarations concerning the Afghan frontier question, and point to England's increased military preparations as justifying their distrust.

A resolution of the Council of War sanctioned by the Emperor directs the formation of a separate artillery department for the Transcaspian territory. A considerable supply of newly-manufactured shells for the Siberian flotilla will shortly be despatched to Vladivostock.

CAIRO, August 7.

The representatives of the Powers having formally notified their adhesion to the Khedivial decrees authorising the new loan, the members of the Caisse of the Public Debt to-day assumed the service of the loan. Messrs. Rothschild having placed the first instalment at their disposal, the payment of the indemnity awards will be immediately proceeded with.

VIENNA, August 7.

At the State dinner to be given by the Emperor William at the Badeschloss, at four o'clock this afternoon, covers will be laid for 33 persons, including Count Beust. No toasts will be proposed.

SOFIA, August 7.

Prince Alexander will return here about the 16th inst. in conformity with the programme arranged before his departure. There is no foundation for the report recently circulated in Vienna that his Highness had been suddenly recalled to Bulgaria in consequence of the discovery of a conspiracy against him.

BERLIN, August 7.

It is positively asserted this morning that a conference has been arranged to take place before the close of this month between Prince Bismarck and the Russian Foreign Minister, M. de Giers. The place of meeting will be Franzensbad.

PARIS, August 7.

The *République Française* states that an alliance has been arranged between England and China, to take effect in the event of war with Russia.

At a Council of Ministers held here this morning the date of the forthcoming elections to the Legislature was fixed for October 4.

We understand it was officially arranged yesterday that the Prorogation of Parliament will take place on Thursday next, at two o'clock.

Lord Carnarvon will leave the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, on Monday next, for a ten days' tour in the South and West of Ireland. His Excellency purposes visiting in succession Cork, Limerick, Galway, and, if the time permits, some other places along the coast, but his stay in the towns will be necessarily brief, as he wishes, in the time at his disposal, to see as much as he can of the poorer districts, especially in the West. The tour will be as little of a public nature as possible.

The Marquis of Salisbury yesterday received at his residence in Arlington-street a joint deputation, from the Board of Representatives of British Jews and from the Anglo-Jewish Association, to call his attention to the ill-treatment which is being suffered by the native Jews of Roumania, who are barbarously and oppressively treated by the Roumanian Government and natives, in flagrant violation of the 44th Article of the Treaty of Berlin, under which, at the instance of this country, Roumania was recognised as an independent State and admitted to the family of nations.

Concerning the great three-mile circular petition, which took a Professor of Applied Mechanics and four House of Commons messengers to convey to the table of the House, we ventured to remark that it would have carried quite as much moral weight if it had contained one signature—that of Mr. Booth—instead of that of all his "army" of men, women, and children. It would have carried more, it appears; for then there would have been no occasion for the Petitions Committee of the House of Commons to make the following report on it:—

Your Committee have, in the case of the petition from members and friends of the Salvation Army, presented by Professor Stuart on July 30, reported to the House the number of names appended thereto; but they are of opinion that many of the names are in the same handwriting, and that the orders of the House, which require that every petition must be signed by the parties whose names are appended thereto by their names or marks, and by no one else, except in case of incapacity by sickness, have not been complied with.

The same remark is made about some half a dozen other petitions concerned with the matter which so greatly interests Mr. Booth. What sacrifices these good people have to make in a good cause! They have thrown away common decency long ago; and now it appears common honesty must go as well.—*St. James's Gazette.*

It is announced that Professor Vambéry's new work, *The Coming Struggle for India*, will be ready for publication on Wednesday next, the 12th inst. It will be furnished with a map in colours of Central Asia, showing the successive advances of Russia towards India.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between the Hon. R. C. Trollope and Miss Carew, elder daughter of the late Colonel Carew, of Crowcombe Court, Somersetshire.

Also between the Hon. Laura J. Edwardes, eldest daughter of the late Lord Kensington, and Major-General Raymond H. White.

Also between Mr. Henry P. Owen, of the Inner Temple, youngest son of the late Mr. Robert Owen, M.L.C., of Sydney, N.S.W., and Miss Jeanie Rayner, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Rayner, of Blundell Sands, Liverpool.

Also between Gertrude, eldest daughter of Colonel Hugh Jones Mortimer, of Plâs Neuydd, near Ruthin, Denbighshire, and Mr. Charles Gathorne Hill, eldest son of Charles Hill, Esq., of Clevedon Hall, and Hazel Manor, Gloucestershire.

The marriage of the Rev. E. Hugh Alington, youngest son of the late Rev. John Alington, of Candlesby Rectory, Lincolnshire, with Margaret Maclaren, younger daughter of the late Archibald Maclaren, of Summerfield, near Oxford, was celebrated at the parish church of Summertown on the 30th ult. The service was fully choral. The bride's dress was of white satin, with drapery of Brussels lace, and her train was carried by the youngest bridesmaid. The veil was of tulle, and was fastened by a diamond star, the gift of Mr. J. W. H. Maclaren, her brother, who also gave her away. The Rev. C. Eccles Williams, brother-in-law of the bride, assisted by the Rev. A. Marmaduke Alington, vicar of Benniworth, and the Rev. A. C. Smith, vicar of Summertown, performed the ceremony. The nine bridesmaids wore dresses of cream canvas, with draperies of yak lace, and pale pink moiré ribbon. The six eldest wore hats to correspond, the three younger grannie bonnets of white lace; they all carried posy bouquets of pink roses and marguerites, and pale pink satin fans, the gifts of the bridegroom. After the wedding breakfast at Summerfield, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Alington left for Switzerland. The bride's travelling dress was of cream embroidered muslin, trimmed with green velvet, and hat to match. The wedding presents numbered over a hundred.

On Wednesday last, at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Augustus Byron, only son of the Hon. and Rev. Augustus Byron, of Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire, with Constance, youngest daughter of Mr. Clough-Taylor, of Firby, Kirkham Abbey, Yorkshire. Mr. Frank C. Newton was best man, and there were six bridesmaids. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a train of white brocaded satin over a petticoat of plain satin, draped with Honiton lace, and had a wreath of orange blossoms and tulle veil, fastened by a diamond crescent, the bridegroom's gift; her other ornaments included a necklace of diamonds and pearls. The bridesmaids looked well in dresses of white muslin over white satin, and wore sailor hats with wreaths of pink and red carnations. Each wore a pearl horseshoe safety-pin, the gift of the bridegroom, and carried a bouquet of red and pink carnations. The Rev. Basil Airy, vicar of Whitwell, Yorkshire, officiated, assisted by the Rev. J. Baden-Powell, of St. Paul's. The near relations of the bride and bridegroom afterwards reassembled at 1, Palace-green, Kensington, where the wedding breakfast was given, after which the newly-wedded couple started for Wilcote, Oxon, kindly lent by Mrs. Charles Sartoris for the honeymoon. The bride's travelling dress was of white serge, with sailor hat, trimmed with white carnations.

On the 29th ult., the marriage of the Rev. René Francis Reignier Conder, B.A. Oxon, youngest son of Francis Roubiliac Conder, M.Inst.C.E., with Helen Anne, only daughter of the late Robert Blair Maconochie, of Gattonside, Melrose, and granddaughter of the late Lord Meadowbank, was solemnised in the parish church of St. Mary, Shaw-cum-Donnington, Berks. The officiating clergy were the Rev. R. A. J. Suckling, vicar of St. Alban's, Holborn, and the Hon. and Rev. Horatio Nelson, vicar of the parish. The bridegroom was accompanied by his cousin, F. Everard Colt, barrister-at-law, of Lincoln's-inn, as best man. The bride, in the unavoidable absence, through illness, of her eldest brother, Mr. Maconochie-Welwood, of Meadowbank and Garooch, was led to the altar by her second brother, Captain Maconochie, of H.M.S. *Devastation*, who afterwards gave her away. She was received in the church porch by her six bridesmaids. The bride's dress was of soft pearl-white silk, the front trimmed with lace and sprays of myrtle, and a long plain train. She wore a beautiful veil of Brussels lace over sprays of orange blossom, and fastened to the hair with three diamond swallows; a gold necklet and cross set with pearls, and gold and pearl bracelet, and carried a large bouquet of white flowers, the gift of the bridegroom. The six bridesmaids were dressed alike in cream lace over primrose colour, with primrose bows and ribbons. The five eldest had small white straw Princess bonnets, trimmed with cream chenille net, and aigrettes; and the bridegroom's little niece, who carried the bride's train, wore a straw hat trimmed to correspond. After signing the register in the vestry the wedding party adjourned to Donnington Priory, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Fellowes, uncle and aunt of the bride, for the breakfast; after which the newly-married couple started, in a storm of rice, for their wedding tour to Switzerland and the Rhine. The bride's travelling dress was of soft brown silk, over a skirt of brown and gold silk brocade, with a brown Princess bonnet to match.

The marriage of Cyprian Knollys, Esq., Scots Guards, with Miss Carter Wood, took place on the 30th ult. at St. John's Church, Westminster, at an early hour, and in the presence of only a few of the nearest relatives of the bride and bridegroom. Mr. Knollys returned from Cyprus a few days ago on leave, and will rejoin his regiment shortly. The invitations for the wedding were sent out last spring, when the sudden departure of the Scots Guards obliged its postponement. The bride was married in her travelling dress, and immediately after the ceremony drove to the station *en route* for Tunbridge Wells.

TRAVELLING DRESS.

The chief requisites in a travelling costume may be thus briefly summed up—lightness combined with strength and a certain degree of warmth necessary in various temperatures, general usefulness in the dress itself, and absolute simplicity in its make. Trimmings of all kinds should be steadily avoided, even the coarse lace now so fashionable. Such additions to the costumes are only so many dust-traps, entailing trouble in brushing and a look of shabbiness in the general effect when the first freshness has worn off. The universally worn canvas does not commend itself as a material to our mind for travelling wear; being such an open fabric it is a perfect dust-receptacle, and if lined with silk—as in the case of covering cloaks—the stuff itself still holds the dust, and bears brushing very badly; not even the warmest admirer of étamine materials can affirm that they wear well, in fact the reverse is notoriously the case. Neither can they be said to be economical, as they require to be made up over expensive foundations and need the most perfect fitting to ensure style. Moreover, their freshness is gone after they have been worn a very few times. Thus, though our leading modistes and tailors are largely employing canvas for dresses and travelling wraps, we cannot but think its reign is on the wane.

A new material, or rather an old one revived, which is in every way suited for travelling purposes, is alpaca; it is light, strong, dust-resisting, cool, and clean-looking, and is likely, as a thoroughly serviceable stuff for wear, both by land and sea, to rival serge. There are alpacas and alpacas, though; many of those now manufactured will not bear comparison with those of past years. A really fine silky-looking alpaca is somewhat difficult to buy; coarse dull-looking specimens of this material were rarely seen formerly, but would now appear the rule to which those of a higher class texture are the exception. This state of things, however, will not continue, since another species of alpaca goat has been discovered in Asia Minor, which has hair exceeding in value that of the South American animal. A Regent-street firm has taken up the manufacture of its hair, and is exhibiting it at the Inventions, so we are likely to have a better, softer, and more glossy variety of alpaca at a reasonable price. Several dresses of it, both in light and dark colours, made especially for travelling, have been recently sent out by London and Paris houses. The Princess of Wales, on her recent journey to Leeds, wore a navy blue alpaca, made for her by Redfern, and where Royalty leads Fashion very promptly follows. A dress of silvery grey (the prettiest of all shades in alpaca), with a delightfully silky appearance, made in a very simple and ladylike style, may be described. It had the bodice laced across from the point of the waist to below the bust with broad silk laces; the skirt, with the exception of a frill beneath the deep hem at the edge, was quite plain, the tunic being simply draped over it both at the back and in front. Prepared to wear with it was a travelling coat (of the same material, only of extra thickness), which had a double cape with a high collar, a pleated front, the pleats being secured by a waistband of ribbed silk with the ends crossing in front, and sleeves with turned-back cuffs; the coat was full behind, and covered the dress, merely showing the frill or narrow-kilted flounce at the bottom. Another very stylish alpaca costume is beige-coloured, full at the back, with a waistcoat in front buttoned down the centre, beneath which is a plain, the sides of the redingote folding over it. The sleeves are plain, coat-shape, rather large, and the collar high; a soft beige felt hat, with a somewhat high crown and turned-up sides, was intended to wear with this dress.

For those who require a little more substance and warmth, the new French dress materials, the striped serges and rough cloths Doré is introducing and making a *spécialité* of, will be suitable. Some of these are excessively pretty, those in quiet dark colours—browns, and greens of olive shades, in striped and plain materials—intended to be made up together. The stripes are of the same colour, in most instances, as the ground, are somewhat wide, and of silky wool, presenting a curly appearance which is both effective and novel-looking. Thin cloths, vicunas, Scotch tweeds, and Shetland homespuns, which last will be greatly worn this autumn, are all admirable suited for the purpose under notice, always provided they are made without any superfluous draperies to add to their weight. English-women abroad no longer make of themselves such conspicuous objects as formerly. The foreigner has now no reason to regard with astonishment the black silks in the very last stage of shininess and general shabbiness, the wonderful mushroom hats with blue veils round them, or the equally-curious bonnets with those relics of the past, blue sunshades, attached, the abnormally long-fingered cotton gloves, and aggressively stout umbrellas; all these objectionables, supposed to be dear to the soul of the English female tourist, are happily consigned to the limbo of lost articles, and, far from offering themselves up to the ridicule of Frenchwomen, our bright, neatly-clad English girls excite their envy for the perfect fit of their tailor-made gowns and the general suitability of their travelling costumes. Imitation is, we all know, the sincerest form of flattery, and French *élegantes* demonstrate this by ordering the *costume de voyage* of English tailors, who have now, we are glad to see, returned to that simplicity of make which is, or should be, the leading feature of man's work as distinguishable from that of the milliner, who loves to trim the dresses entrusted to her charge to the very verge of vulgarity. At one time, and that rather recently, more fanciful designs than the strict and severely simple style which marks the tailor-cut gown were sought to be introduced, but this was soon found to be a mistake, and the habit bodice with high collar, with or without vest, and plain skirt, with full, gracefully-arranged draperies, again reigns supreme, and is likely to do so for some time.

With cloth travelling dresses, either cloth toque hats to match, or soft felt of the same colour, are in the best taste. If, however, the costume is of a lighter material, then plainly trimmed straw hats, either of the at present very fashionable "sailor" shape, or a high-crowned, somewhat close-brimmed French hat, such as the Louis XVI. or "Goffinon." With a silver-grey alpaca, a grey straw of this shape trimmed with three shades of soft grey silk, deepening in tone and finished off with dark grey velvet, would be in admirable taste. The large shady hats in Leghorn and Tuscan, as well as in coarser straws and rush, are much affected at French watering-places, the "Demarsy" and "Lockroy" being amongst the newest, and the "Cloche," recently introduced by a leader in the Parisian fashion world; but such are scarcely suited for the actual journey, large hats being very much in the way by rail, road, or sea. Close-fitting headgear is far more appropriate for the purpose. Later on a return will be made to the old-fashioned turban shape, the somewhat vulgarly-named "pork pie," which conjures up visions of Leech's caricatures; even now some are to be seen as forerunners of what is in store for us.

The more dressy toilet, for wear at the *table d'hôte* and on special occasions, there is no reason to dwell on here, their style and character depending so very much on the place for which the traveller is bound, if quiet or gay. Old and experienced tourists know that abroad luggage should be as much reduced as is compatible with comfort; too much *baggage* is worse than too little; it has certain responsibilities, and entails much trouble on the possessor. Washing dresses should always be avoided, the foreign *blanchisseuse* being nearly as merciless as the Indian dhobie in her treatment of frills and flounces. Soft and uncrushable should, therefore, be the materials selected for afternoon and evening wear; additional dressiness can always be given, and changes effected, with the aid of lace chemisettes and ruffles, which will not readily soil.

Extra wraps of various kinds are a necessity, as much so as good boots and shoes, in which a certain amount of comfortable walking can be done without distress to the wearer—square-toed and low-heeled, with the heels in the right places, not in the middle of the soles, a fashion as fatal to the ease of the walker as it was vulgar in appearance, and as such happily vanished for the time, let us hope not to see an early revival. A large warm shawl, to act as a rug when required, a theatre wrap, a light mackintosh combining the useful with the ornamental, and a well-made cloth jacket, such as the "Battenberg," a new and very convenient shape, with loose front, fastening on one side, and tightly-fitting back, which can be worn, if chosen, of a neutral tint, over any dress, will all be found of much service, as will the new-jointed umbrella, which is so made that the handle can in a moment be shortened or lengthened at pleasure. The same sort of handles, in pretty woods, are also fitted to parasols and ladies' walking-canes.—*Standard.*

As the press recently made allusion to the fatality of Mondays in connection with a notable statesman, I have thought the following extract may be of interest to your readers. While turning over an old MS. a short time since at the British Museum, I met with this:—"An old Arabian Philosopher of Divers rare observations who did remarke three Mundays in a yeare to be most unfortunate either to let bloud or Begin any notable worke (viz.) first Munday in April which day Caine was Borne and his brother Abel slain. First Munday in August, Sodom and Gommorha were connfounded; the third is the last Munday in December, the which day Judas was born..... All children put to school on certain days would become great scholars, viz., 3 and 13 Jany., 5 and 28 Feb., 3, 22 and 30 March, 5 23 and 29 April, 4 and 28 May, 3 and 8 June, 12, 13 and 15 July. 12 Aug., 1, 7, 24 and 28 Sept., 4 and 15 Oct., 13 and 19 Nov., 23 and 26 Dec." It may be interesting to the curious to trace the origin of this superstition, and ascertain how far it applies to any of our grand old men.—*Notes and Queries.*

The National Portrait Gallery has not retained all the popularity for which it was indebted to the Fisheries Exhibition in 1883. At that time, when the first of the great Kensington attractions brought many thousands of people every week past the entrance to one of our most interesting picture collections, it was evident that a large proportion of worthy folks, who were anxious less for ichthyological knowledge than to enjoy the lighter amusements afforded by music and illuminated grounds, became cognisant for the first time of the fact that there existed a gallery wherein were the presentments of hundreds of historical celebrities whom they had pictured in their school days. Consequently the number of visitors exceeded by upwards of 60,000 that of the preceding year, the figures being larger, indeed, than at any period since the formation of the collection in George-street, Westminster, a quarter of a century ago. During the Exhibition of Scientific Instruments and the Prince of Wales's Indian Presents in 1876 the visitors to the Gallery numbered 108,252, but at the time of the Fisheries Exhibition upwards of 146,000 were recorded. Last year, however, although the Health Exhibition brought even larger crowds to the vicinity than during the previous year, the students of the national portraits were 25,471 less. The trustees consider that this is due to the increased number of places of entrance now provided to the grounds of the exhibition, and also to the Buckland Museum and the Fish Culture Department being kept separate.

An interesting discovery illustrating the commerce and luxury of ancient Rome has been made close to Monte Testaccio and the English cemetery. The whole of that district to the west of the Aventine outside the Porta Tregemina was occupied by granaries and warehouses for the storage of imports of all kinds. Between the northern side of Monte Testaccio and the Tiber there still exist colossal remains of the great emporium built by Marcus Emilius Lepidus and Emilius Paulus nearly 200 years before the Christian era. In the year 1868 a considerable portion of the quays was discovered, together with some 600 blocks, many of them of large size, of rare variegated marbles of all kinds, lying just where they were landed from the galleys which had brought them from Numidia, the Grecian Islands, and Asia Minor fifteen centuries ago. Now, in the course of the building operations in this locality, two warehouses have been discovered, one filled with elephants' tusks and the other with lentils. It is curious to find such productions stored side by side; but as bags of lentils were sometimes shipped as ballast, they may have served that purpose. The discovery would have been a very valuable one if, unfortunately, the ivory had not been much decayed.

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